DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
MORRO BAY STATE PARK

January 2004

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Acquisition and Development Division

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: **SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Northern Service Center
  California Department of Parks & Recreation
  One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
  Sacramento, California 95814

- Museum of Natural History
  Morro Bay State Park
  20 Lower State Park Road
  Morro Bay, California 93442

- Morro Bay Library
  625 Harbor Street
  Morro Bay, California 93442

- San Luis Obispo County Library
  995 Palm Street
  San Luis Obispo, California 94301

- California Department of Parks & Recreation website
  http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=980

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) proposes to make improvements at Morro Bay State Park. The following is a summary of the proposed work:

- Replace two 40-year-old sewage pump stations and associated equipment; one pump station will be replaced in the same footprint, while the other (eastern) pump station will be relocated adjacent to the new series of asphalt campground loops, approximately 150 feet northwest of its current location.
- Rehabilitate/replace approximately 11,000 linear feet of existing sewer lines.
- Install new electrical supply lines between the existing entrance station and the new eastern lift station. Repair/replace existing cables and auxiliary connections, as necessary.

Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Gail Sevrens – Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814
Fax: (916) 445-9100
Email: gsevr@parks.ca.gov

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

_____ _____
Gail Sevrens Date
Environmental Coordinator

Original Signature on File _____
Nicholas Franco Date
District Superintendent

Original Signature on File _____
Kathleen Amann Date
Manager, Northern Service Center

TABLE of CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Sewer System Improvements Project at Morro Bay State Park, San Luis Obispo County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.,* and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq*.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency regarding specific project information is:

Jim Trapani – Project Manager
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 445-8769

Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted to:

Gail Sevrens – Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814
Fax: (916) 445-9100
Email: gsevr@parks.ca.gov

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked or received by fax or email no later than February 15, 2004. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include full name and address.

1.3 COMMENTING EFFECTIVELY ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

Public participation is an essential part of the CEQA process. Review of environmental documents offer interested governmental agencies, private individuals, and organizations an opportunity to consider a proposed project and share expertise; evaluate agency analyses; check for completeness and accuracy; identify areas of concern; and present alternative or additional options for consideration. (California Code of Regulations §15200).

To comment effectively on an environmental document, consider the following points:

1. Objectively evaluate the project.
    - Consider the activities proposed as part of the project and determine if these actions could result in a impact or change to the environment.
    - If an impact could occur, would it be substantial or "significant"? Significance is determined by the amount of difference between what currently exists and what will exist during or following completion of the project.
    - If you conclude there would be a significant adverse effect, does the document agree with that assessment?
    - If the impact is potentially significant, are there mitigations (ways to reduce the severity of the impact) included in the document? Will they reduce the impact to a less than significant level? (For an MND, mitigations must reduce <u>all</u> potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. For an EIR, impacts must be reduced to the extent feasible. All mitigations must be feasible and enforceable).
    - If a potential significant impact has not, in the reviewer's opinion, been adequately identified; if no mitigation has been proposed for a potentially significant impact; or if the mitigation proposed does not appear to be sufficient or appropriate, the reviewer should:
        - Identify the specific impact in question;
        - Explain why you believe the impact would occur;
        - Explain why you believe the effect would be significant (§15204[b]); and, if applicable,

- Explain what additional mitigation measure(s) or changes in proposed mitigations you would recommend.

2. Explain the basis for your comments and recommendations (facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts) and, whenever possible, submit specific data and/or references supporting your conclusions (§15204[d]).

3. Make sure comments are submitted before the deadline. Comments postmarked after the close of the public review period will not be accepted. If necessary, fax your comments on or before the close of the review period and follow up by regular mail. Comments must be submitted in writing and must include your name and a valid address. Email addresses are not sufficient.

4. Reviewing agencies or organizations should include the name of a contact person, who would be available for questions or consultation, along with their comments. (§15204[c])

1.4 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Sewer System Improvements Project at Morro Bay State Park. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less than significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.
  This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description.
  This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

- Chapter 4 - Mandatory Findings of Significance.
  This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

- Chapter 5 - Summary of Mitigation Measures.

This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.

- Chapter 6 - References.
  This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

- Chapter 7 - Report Preparation.
  This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

1.5 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Sewer System Improvements Project would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, an MND shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

CHAPTER 2
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Sewer System Improvements Project at Morro Bay State Park (SP). The proposed project would (1) replace two 40-year-old sewage pump stations, (2) upgrade associated equipment by incorporating modern pumps, emergency holding capacity, failure/service telemetry, new electrical service, and appropriate controls; and (3) rehabilitate/replace portions of existing sewer lines.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Morro Bay State Park (SP) is located in the City of Morro Bay in the County of San Luis Obispo, and is composed of two separate parcels, totaling approximately 2,700 acres. The main park is bounded by Morro Bay to the west, the Baywood Park community to the south, open space to the east, and the City of Morro Bay to the north. The park includes wetlands, lagoon, and upland habitat.

The campground consists of approximately 28 acres. It is scheduled for rehabilitation within the near future as part of the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project, and will include approximately 150 campsites, including two group campsites, as well as picnic sites. Park facilities also include day use areas.

2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The purpose of Morro Bay SP, as noted in the 1988 Morro Bay General Plan (GP), is to:

> "…make available to the people the shorelands and related uplands of Morro Bay, including…the bay's marsh and tidelands, and the native grasslands, woodlands, shrublands, and scenic rocky outcrops. All significant scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources shall be protected and perpetuated."[1]

The park's facilities are served by a sewage collection system that is owned and operated by the Department. Sewage is collected and delivered by a gravity sewer system to two pump stations. The sewage is pumped through a force main to the public sewer system for treatment outside the park boundary.

Several problems with the existing pump stations and force mains have been identified:

1. The existing pump stations are more than 40 years old, have reached the end of their useful economic lives, and require intensive continuing maintenance.
2. The pumps fail regularly, threatening to discharge sewage into the bay and saltwater marsh, which would cause a public health and environmental hazard.

[1] DPR, Morro Bay State Park Preliminary General Plan, January 1988, p. 36.

3. The current system does not have an emergency telemetry alarm system. Park personnel currently are not immediately notified of problems, which if not addressed in a timely manner, might result in a sewage spill.
4. There are currently no emergency holding tanks capable of maintaining service to the park during power outages, repairs, or pump breakdowns.
5. The sewer mains need work to prevent leakage due to cracks and damage from root intrusion.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The intent of this project is to make improvements to the sewage collection system at Morro Bay SP. The project will replace two 40-year-old sewage pump stations, upgrade associated equipment, and rehabilitate/replace sewer lines. The new stations will include modern pumps, emergency holding capacity, failure/service telemetry, new electrical service, and appropriate controls.

The work proposed is expected to:

- lower the risk of sewage spills, leaks, and overflows for a heavily used park unit;
- reduce potential hazards to natural resources, and
- protect the health and safety of State Park employees, visitors, and area residents.

Additionally, this project furthers the Seventh Generation 2001, Strategic Initiatives of the Department's mission, by contributing to the following objectives:

- utilize technology, improving the operational effectiveness and safety of the facilities;
- increase leadership in natural resource management, by protecting the natural resources of the park and surrounding community;
- provide and maintain a dependable facilities infrastructure; and
- provide a safe environment within State Parks.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Replace two 40-year-old sewage pump stations and associated equipment:
  - The western pump station, which is located entirely in a paved area, will be replaced in the same footprint.
  - The existing eastern pump station will demolished and reconstructed approximately 150 feet northwest of its current location, off the new series of asphalt campground loops (part of the previously noted campground rehabilitation), to move it further from the salt marsh. The relocated lift station will have a tank that requires excavation up to 28' feet deep, with a footprint of approximately 50' x 80'. The old lift station will be removed in its entirety, requiring excavation of an area up to 90' long x 50' wide x 20' deep.

  Both lift station buildings will be removed. All pumping equipment will be installed below the ground surface in pits that will have lift up/removable covers to access and maintain the pumps. The covers will be approximately one foot above ground level. Control equipment will be installed above ground inside service boxes.
- Existing sewer lines--approximately 11,000 linear feet--(force mains and gravity mains) will be rehabilitated or replaced. New sewer pipe systems will be installed, as necessary.

- Construction methods may include, but are not limited to, open trenching, trenchless technology, or directional bore drilling (see Appendix A, Figures 3-5):
  - The gravity line from the corporation yard that serves residences and a maintenance shop would be repaired using trenchless technology. Excavation will only occur in the unlikely event that obstructions are encountered, and would be in the footprint of the existing line. This gravity line is approximately 1,800 feet long.
  - The gravity line from the group camp to the next restroom will be repaired using open trenching for an area approximately 1,500' long x 24" wide x up to 36" deep. This trench will be located along the existing unpaved roadway.
  - The force main adjacent to the road and between the road and golf course will be repaired either by relining the existing pipe or by using directional boring near the existing force main. Excavations of either 5' wide x 10' long x 4' deep or 10' wide x 20' long x 4' deep (large enough to accommodate machinery) would be required. These excavations will be located approximately every 200' along the existing 4,200'-long line.
- New electrical supply will be installed between the existing entrance station and the new lift station. Other electrical work may be required (e.g., existing cables are damaged). The existing electrical lines will remain in service for use with the new/retrofitted lift stations.

2.6 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Construction for this project would take approximately 120 days to complete. During this time the park and campground will remain open, although the areas of the site under active construction would be restricted to authorized personnel only. An alternative sewage solution such as pumping and hauling the sewage off-site would be while construction is in progress. Work would only occur during daylight hours.

Heavy equipment, such as backhoes, excavators, graders, bulldozers, pile drivers, and dump trucks, would be used during construction. Most equipment would be transported to the site and remain until the associated work is completed. Staging areas for the project would be within Morro Bay SP boundaries. Transport vehicles for building components, material delivery trucks, and crew vehicles would also be present intermittently at the site.

2.7 VISITATION TO MORRO BAY STATE PARK

Morro Bay SP lies along the shoreline of Morro Bay and is the largest coastal park in the Morro Bay area, encompassing approximately 2,700 acres and 39,515 linear feet of bay frontage. With its close proximity to the coast and abundant scenic, natural, and cultural resources, Morro Bay SP is a popular year-round destination. The peak period of visitor use is May through September. Historically, the park has attracted an average of over 1,000,000 day-use visitors and approximately 110,000 overnight visitors per year. However, day-use visitation was reduced during the 2001-2003 seasons due to the closure of the park's Museum of Natural History for renovations from December 2001 through July 2002. Visitation is expected to return to historical levels now that the Museum has been reopened.

Year	Day Use	Camping	Total Visitation

1999/2000	1,024,329	103,775	1,128,104
2000/2001	1,171,150	105,814	1,128,941
2001/2002	818,136*	115,892	934,028*
2002/2003	739,753*	108,856	848,609*

*The park's Museum of Natural History was closed for renovation from December 1, 2001 through August 4th, 2002, leading to reduced day-use and overall visitation.

Additionally, when the planned Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project (see Section 2.10 below) is completed, there will be a net increase of 12 campsites, which will be able to accommodate up to 90 additional overnight visitors. Camping visits may also increase because campground improvements would make the campground more attractive to visitors during nonpeak periods.[2]

However, work proposed as part of this project is designed to provide adequate sanitary facilities for current and future projected levels of visitation. There is nothing in this project that would act as an attraction for additional visitors; therefore, the project would have negligible impact on the level of visitation at Morro Bay SP.

2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed project is subject to the provisions of several land use plans, including the (1) City of Morro Bay General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan, and (2) Morro Bay State Park General Plan, as discussed below.

City of Morro Bay General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan - Morro Bay SP is located entirely within the coastal zone and is subject to the provisions of the City of Morro Bay/Coastal Land Use Plan, which serves as part of the local coastal program pursuant to the California Coastal Act. Portions of the park located south of Lower State Park Road fall within the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) jurisdiction and development in this area is subject to coastal development permit requirements of the CCC.

According to the City of Morro Bay/Coastal Land Use Plan, Morro Bay SP has two land use designations in different areas of the park: Open Space/Recreation and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat. The Open Space/Recreation designation includes the open space that is not defined as environmentally sensitive habitat and is intended to accommodate more intensive recreational activities. Allowable uses include golf courses, boating clubs, athletic fields, stables, campgrounds, and other commercial recreation uses. The Environmentally Sensitive Habitat designation is assigned to those areas in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments. Allowable uses within this land use designation include resource-dependent activities such as fishing, clamming, hiking, and viewshed enjoyment.

[2] EDAW, Morro Bay State Park Draft Environmental Impact Report, Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project, March 1, 2001, p. 3-11.

Morro Bay State Park General Plan - DPR developed a General Plan for Morro Bay SP in 1988 to facilitate long-range planning at the park and to establish guidelines for the long-term use, management, and development of Morro Bay SP. The proposed project, which involves repairs to the park's sewer infrastructure that services the campground and employee housing area at the park, is consistent with the Morro Bay SP General Plan (GP).

For more information, see Chapter 3, Section IX, Land Use and Planning.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

DPR has approval authority for implementation of projects within the boundaries of Morro Bay State Park. However, the following permits and/or consultations may also be required before work can begin:

- Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Coastal Development Permit from the City of Morro Bay
- Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission
- Notice of Intent (NOI) to Comply with the Terms of the General Permit to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity - State Water Resources Control Board. Includes preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the General Permit.

The project would also adhere to all applicable local building and engineering regulations/ordinances set forth by City of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, and the California Uniform Building Code.

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

In addition to work within Morro Bay State Park, projects conducted by agencies other than DPR may also affect the project site and the significance of any potential impacts to the environment. Projects in the vicinity of the proposed project that are planned include:

- DPR is planning the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project. For further information, see EDAW, Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Morro Bay State Park Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project, March 1, 2001 (SCH# 2000121082).

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CHAPTER 3
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1.	Project Title:	Sewer System Improvements
2.	Lead Agency Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
3.	Contact Person & Phone Number:	Jim Trapani - Project Manager (916) 445-8769 Gail Sevrens - Environmental Coordinator (916) 445-8827
4.	Project Location:	Morro Bay State Park, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California
5.	Project Sponsor Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation Northern Service Center One Capital Mall - Suite 500 Sacramento, California 95814
6.	General Plan Designation:	State Park (Classification) Morro Bay Park Project General Plan (1988)
7.	Zoning:	Open Space/Recreation with a Park overlay City of Morro Bay General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan
8.	Description of Project:	Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.5 of this document
9.	Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:	Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use Planning)
10.	Approval Required from Other Public Agencies	Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.9 of this document

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transport ation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☐

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents. ☐

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required. ☐

_____ _____

Gail Sevrens Date

Environmental Coordinator

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:

   a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.

   b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.

   c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.

8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
   a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
   b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP is located in a scenic coastal setting along the shoreline of Morro Bay. The visual setting of the park includes several distinct natural and human-made features, which comprise a large portion of the southern part of the City of Morro Bay. These features include: forested campground and day-use areas, a public golf course, Black Hill, a boating marina, salt marsh habitat, upland areas with volcanic plugs, and nearby Morro Rock. The topography of the area varies from approximately 900 feet elevation at Cerro Cabrillo (one of a series of volcanic plugs at the park) to sea level at Morro Bay (see Appendix A, Figure 1).

The campground is situated in a forested area comprising Monterey pine and eucalyptus groves with minimal understory vegetation among the campsites. The 18-hole public golf course has manicured lawns and is located on a gently sloping hillside north of the campground. The public marina, located southwest of the campground, consists of 100 boat slips and contributes to the coastal character of the area. A salt marsh bisected by two creeks (Los Osos Creek and Chorro Creek) is located to the south and southeast of the campground and defines a large portion of the open space at the park. The upland areas north and east of the campground, including Black Hill and Cerro Cabrillo, consist of prominent hillsides with coastal scrub and grassland vegetation. Morro Rock is located northwest of the campground area and is a distinguishing landmark of the area.

Several significant vistas and view corridors are provided throughout the project area. Scenic vistas are provided from the edges of the campground area to the bay, salt marsh, golf course, and coastal hills. The golf course provides broad, expansive views of the bay, Morro Rock, campground, forest, and distant salt marsh. Travelers on Lower State Park Road gain broad views of the salt marsh, while northbound travelers on South Bay Boulevard can view the salt marsh to the west and Black Hill directly to the north.

Morro Bay SP is designated as a “Highly Scenic View Area” in the City’s General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan. In addition, the Morro Bay SP road system and South Bay Boulevard are identified in the City’s GP as scenic routes, and the intersection of Main Street with the Morro Bay SP entrance is considered one of several scenic “gateways” to the city.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project involves replacing two 40-year-old sewer pump stations and associated equipment and rehabilitating/replacing approximately 11,000 linear feet of existing sewer lines. The existing sewer pump stations would be replaced with new pump stations installed below ground, with covers that will rise approximately one foot above the ground surface. The western pump station will be replaced in the same location, while the eastern pump station will be relocated from its current location at the edge of the salt marsh to a location approximately 150 feet to the northwest. The relocation of this pump station will remove a minor visual obstruction from along the edge of the marsh. The new station will be located to an area of more concentrated development (adjacent to asphalt campground loops to be constructed during DPR's Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project)..The reduction in the above-ground size of the stations and the relocation of the eastern station will lead to an improvement in the aesthetics of the area. The proposed repair and replacement of existing sewer lines will occur underground and will not introduce any new, permanent structure into the viewshed. The project involves trenching and excavation, which would result in open trenches, exposed soil and stockpiles, and heavy equipment at the site, temporarily impairing views to and across the site during construction. However, the project would not block or interfere with any scenic vistas provided by the project area. Less than significant impact.

b) A portion of Morro Bay SP is located adjacent to Highway 1 in an area where the highway has been declared by the Legislature as a "scenic highway." The park is bisected by Upper and Lower State Park Roads, and is adjacent to South Bay Boulevard, all of which are identified as scenic routes in the City of Morro Bay General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan. The views from these roadways encompass scenic features that are important to the region such as the bay, salt marsh, upland forested areas, and Morro Rock. The proposed project would not affect any historic structures or geologic features. Furthermore, the project would not substantially damage any scenic resources of the area. Some existing vegetation, comprised primarily of coastal sage scrub and iceplant, would be removed along the sewer line alignment and within the footprint of the existing and proposed sewer pump station

locations during construction. However, the project will be designed and constructed such that the removal of trees will be avoided. All disturbed areas will be revegetated with native species following construction in a manner that will reestablish aesthetic conditions to pre-project levels. Less than significant impact.

c) The proposed project requires trenching and excavation to repair sewer lines and remove and replace the existing pump stations and associated equipment. This ground disturbance will result in the removal of vegetation and will create exposed soil and soil stockpiles during construction. The presence of construction equipment, disturbed vegetation, and exposed soil will have a temporary visual impact on the area. Project construction is expected to take approximately 120 days to complete. Following construction, the excavated material would be replaced and all disturbed areas would be revegetated with native vegetation. Although construction activities may have a limited temporary impact on the view for those traveling on adjacent roadways or visiting the park, obstructions would be extremely limited and exposure of brief duration. There would be no long-term or permanent adverse impact to the overall appearance of the area. The reduction in above-ground size of the pump stations and relocation of the eastern station will improve the visual character of the site. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Less than significant impact.

d) Existing nighttime lighting at the park is generated primarily from the existing combination buildings, comfort station, streetlights, and entrance station. Other sources of nighttime lighting are generated by typical visitor use such as car headlights, campfires, and flashlights. The existing sewer lift stations have mounted exterior lights, similar to the light fixtures on other buildings throughout the park; these will be replaced in-kind. The proposed project would not change the number or intensity of lights on the lift stations, or create a new source of light in an area where none currently exists.

   It is expected that all construction work, with the exception of dewatering activities, for the proposed project will be limited to daylight hours, eliminating the need for work lights. However, emergency situations could require minimal use of exterior construction lights on a limited basis. If nighttime lighting is required during construction, glare shields would be used on all light sources and work areas would be confined to a maximum of a few hundred feet at any one time. The proposed project would not result in any new, permanent source of light or glare that would adversely affect any day or nighttime views in the area. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact.

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II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Morro Bay contains approximately 300 acres of agricultural land within its city limits, located primarily along the northeastern edge of the city. The proposed project is located entirely within the boundaries of Morro Bay SP, in the southwestern portion of the City (see Appendix A, Figure 1). The park is zoned "Open Space/Recreation" with a "Park" overlay designation in the City's General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan and does not contain any land planned or zoned for agriculture. None of the land within Morro Bay SP, the area immediately surrounding the park, or the area impacted by the proposed project is included in any of the Important Farmland categories, as delineated by the California Department of Conservation, under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP).

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

DISCUSSION

a -c) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, the proposed project site does not support any agricultural operations or farmland; would not interfere with the use of, or conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use; and would have no effect on any category of California Farmland, conflict with any existing zoning for agricultural use or Williamson Act contract, or result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, there would be no impact to agricultural resources.

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III. AIR QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP is located in San Luis Obispo County, within the northwestern portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB), and falls under the jurisdiction of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region IX.

The South Central Coast Air Basin area climate is dominated by a semipermanent high-pressure cell over the Pacific Ocean. In the summer, the dominant high-pressure cell results in persistent west and northwest winds across the majority of coastal California. As air descends in the Pacific high pressure cell, a stable temperature inversion is formed. As temperatures increase, the warmer air aloft expands, forcing the coastal layer of air to move onshore and producing a moderate sea breeze over the coastal plains and valleys. Temperature inversions inhibit vertical air movement and often result in increased transport of air pollutants to inland receptor areas. In the SCCAB, this situation can be worsened by the presence of southeast winds, also known as Santa Ana winds, which transport additional pollutants into the SCCAB from the adjacent South Coast Air Basin.

In the winter, when the high-pressure cell is weakest and farthest south, the inversion associated with the Pacific high pressure cell is typically absent in the SCCAB. The predominant offshore flow during this time of year tends to aid in pollutant dispersal producing relatively healthful to moderate air quality throughout the majority of the region. Conditions during this time are often characterized by afternoon and evening land breezes and occasional rainstorms. However, local inversions caused by the cooling of air close to the ground can form in some areas during the evening and early morning hours.

Both the State and federal governments have established health-based Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) for six air pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), lead (Pb), suspended particulate matter (PM_{10}, or particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). In addition, the State has set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), vinyl chloride (VC), and visibility-reducing particles (VRPs).

South Central Coast Air Basin Air Quality Designations

An area is designated in attainment if the state standard for the specified pollutant was not violated at any site during a three-year period. An area is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment. Table III-1 provides attainment designations for the air basin.

Table III-1. South Central Coast Air Basin Air Quality Designations.		
Pollutant	**2002 State Levels**	**2002 National Levels**
Ozone (O_3)	Nonattainment-Transitional; Moderate	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	Attainment/unclassified	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	Attainment/unclassified	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Particulate Matter 10 (PM_{10})	Nonattainment	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sulfates	Attainment	Not Applicable (n/a)
Lead (Pb)	Attainment/unclassified	n/a
Hydrogen Sulfate	Attainment	n/a
Visibility-Reducing Particles	Attainment/unclassified	n/a

Sources: California Air Resources Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The APCD adopted its 2001 Clean Air Plan (CAP) in 2002 and also publishes annual air quality reports. The major pollutant of concern in the area is suspended particulate matter (PM_{10}). The air basin is also in nonattainment for ozone and therefore, emissions of ozone precursors (reactive organic gases [ROG] and nitrogen oxides, or NOx) are also of concern.

The APCD and the ARB operate several permanent and seasonal air quality monitoring stations in San Luis Obispo County, including a permanent station in Morro Bay. This station is located at 899 Morro Bay Blvd. (lat. 35° 21' 58", long. 120° 50' 33") approximately 0.9 miles from the project area at its nearest point. The station monitors NO, NO_2, NOx, O_3, and PM_{10}, as well as wind direction and speed.

Although the basin is designated as nonattainment for ozone and PM_{10}, federal and state ozone standards were not exceeded in 2002 at any of the APCD's permanent stations. Indeed, occurrences of high concentrations of ozone have been decreasing over the past ten years: Morro Bay experienced 28 hours above 65 parts per billion (ppb) in 1993, and only 4 hours above that level in 2002. The three highest concentrations of ozone recorded in Morro Bay in 2002 were 68, 64, and 63 ppb. During 2002, Morro Bay exceeded state PM_{10} standards just once, with a concentration of 52 micrograms/cubic meter of fine particulate. The annual arithmetic mean for PM_{10} in 2002 in Morro Bay was 18.2 micrograms/cubic meter of fine particulate. (APCD, 2003)

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT*:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

DISCUSSION

The APCD has published the "CEQA Air Quality Handbook: A Guide for Assessing the Air Quality Impacts for Projects Subject to CEQA Review" (APCD, 2003). The handbook provides methods for estimating construction-related emissions, thresholds of significance requiring mitigations, and mitigation measures to offset emissions. The mitigations in the handbook fall into four categories: standard, best available control technology (CBACT), fugitive PM_{10}, and discretionary (APCD, 2003, p. 6-5).

Based on the guidelines in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the estimates in Table III-2 below were calculated for construction for this project. The calculations indicate a total of 2,296 cubic yards of earth work for the project, 1.77 acres of earth work, a construction period of four months (1.3 quarters), and 12 days of construction operation per month.

Table III-2. Estimated Construction Emissions and Required Mitigations						
Pollutant	**Total Lbs. of Emissions***	**Lbs. of Emissions per Quarter***	**Threshold Lbs. per Quarter****	**Lbs. of Emissions per Day**	**Threshold Lbs. per Day****	**Mitigation Level Required**
Diesel PM	11	8.5	n/a	0.2	n/a	TBD in conjunction with APCD (see below)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	698	523	n/a	14.5	n/a	n/a
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	47	35	5,000	1.0	185	standard
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	215	162	5,000	4.5	185	standard
Sulfur Oxides (SOx)	23	18	n/a	0.5	n/a	n/a
Fugitive Dust (PM_{10})	2.90 tons	2.17 tons	2.5 tons	121 lbs.	n/a	standard

*Except fugitive dust (PM_{10}) = tons.
**Except fugitive dust (PM_{10}) = total tons.

Diesel particulate matter (diesel PM) is emitted when using diesel-powered heavy equipment. Diesel PM has been identified by the ARB as a toxic air contaminant with chronic and carcinogenic risks to public health. A significance threshold for diesel PM has not been established. Emission can vary widely, depending on the level of activity, weather, and operation type. Therefore, the APCD evaluates impacts of diesel PM on a case-by-case basis. (APCD, 2003, p. 6-1) The APCD uses NOx emissions in this determination, and recommends use of CBACT mitigations, including use of catalyzed diesel particulate filters (Arlin Genet, 2004).

The project does not anticipate significant removal of old pipelines, which would lead to concerns about asbestos that might be released from such pipelines, if asbestos were present. Pipelines will be repaired in place, although a few very small sections (e.g. connectors) may need to be removed and replaced.

a) The proposed project would occur at the campground in Morro Bay SP, located in the City of Morro Bay. Work proposed by this project, and any associated emissions, would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any applicable air quality management plan. No impact.

b,c) The proposed project would not emit air contaminants at levels that, by themselves, would violate any local, state, or federal ambient air quality standard, or contribute to a permanent or long-term increase in any air contaminant. However, project construction would generate short-term emissions of fugitive dust (PM_{10}) and involve the use of equipment that would emit ozone precursors (i.e., reactive organic gases [ROG] and nitrogen oxides, or NOx). Construction-related emissions are generally short-term in duration, but may still cause adverse air quality impacts. Increased emissions of PM_{10}, ROG, and NOx could contribute to existing nonattainment conditions and interfere with achieving the projected attainment standards. Consequently, construction emissions would be considered a potentially significant short-term adverse impact.

Based on the guidelines set by the APCD as discussed above, DPR will implement the standard mitigations, along with discretionary mitigations, as feasible, reducing any potential air quality impacts to a less than significant level. (See Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and AIR-2 below.)

As a threshold for diesel PM has not been established, mitigations for this emission are determined on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the APCD. Mitigations will be developed in consultation with the APCD, as indicated in Mitigation Measure AIR-3.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-1 APCD STANDARD CONSTRUCTION MITIGATIONS
• DPR and its contractor(s) will properly maintain all construction equipment, according to manufacturer's specifications. • All off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, auxiliary power units, will be fueled with ARB-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road). • The use of diesel construction equipment meeting the ARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines will be maximized to the extent feasible.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-2 APCD DISCRETIONARY MITIGATIONS
• Electrical and/or gasoline-powered equipment or equipment using alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, or biodiesel, will be substituted for diesel-powered equipment, where feasible. • Equipment that has Caterpillar pre-chamber diesel engines will be given priority usage. • A comprehensive construction activity management plan will be developed and implemented to minimize the amount of large construction equipment operating during any given time period, schedule truck trips to reduce peak hour use, determine optimum construction work periods, and phase construction to reduce

concentrated periods of emissions.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-3 DIESEL PM

- DPR and/or its contractor(s) will implement mitigations to reduce diesel PM that are determined as a result of consultation with APCD.

d) As noted in Discussion III (b,c) above, project construction has the potential to generate temporary dust and equipment exhaust emissions. Morro Bay SP is actively used by visitors for a variety of recreational purposes. The proposed project is expected to take approximately 120 days to complete. During this time, the Morro Bay Campground would remain open to public access, with the exception of areas immediately surrounding construction. Visitors utilizing areas immediately adjacent to construction operations may be exposed to increased pollutant concentrations (e.g., dust, vehicle exhaust). The project is not located near any known sensitive receptors, such as a school or hospital. (The nearest school and nearest senior center are approximately one mile away.) Use of the Morro Bay campground and/or day use facilities is a discretionary act; therefore, park visitors with conditions that make them sensitive to these emissions would have the option of avoiding the area altogether or remaining in portions of the park that would be upwind or protected from blowing dust or other emissions. Emission reductions, as indicated in Mitigation Measures AIR-1 through AIR-3 above, and the availability of areas a sufficient distance from construction activities to limit public exposure to emissions, would reduce any potentially adverse impact to a less than significant level.

e) The proposed work would not result in the long-term generation of odors. Construction-related emissions may result in a short-term generation of odors, including diesel exhaust and fuel vapors. These odors might be considered objectionable by some park visitors and personnel. However, because construction activities would be short-term and odorous emissions would dissipate rapidly in the air with increased distance from the source, visitor exposure to these odors would be extremely limited [see (d) above]. Potential odor impacts would be considered less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay State Park (SP) is located in the City of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California. Elevation at the project site ranges from sea level to less than 20 feet above sea level. The park is bordered on the north by the City of Morro Bay, undeveloped open space to the east, the Baywood Park community to the south, and Morro Bay to the west.

The park includes a developed campground, a golf course, and undeveloped natural areas. The campground's natural environment consists of mature Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), and blue gum eucalyptus *(Eucalyptus globulus)* groves with a mostly nonnative understory, central coastal sage scrub, willow riparian forest, freshwater wetlands, coastal salt marsh, and coast live oak forest. A large coastal salt marsh, part of Morro Bay Estuary Natural Preserve, is located southeast of the campground. Chorro Creek enters from the northeast. Natural communities found in the project site include Monterey pine forest, eucalyptus forest, coastal sage scrub, and coastal salt marsh. Blue gum eucalyptus is an exotic species. Monterey pine is native to the central coast of California; however it is not native to the local area.

The project area consists of several separate locations within Morro Bay SP: The first is at the existing lift station, located near the marina and Morro Bay Café. This area is paved and bordered by primarily nonnative vegetation, dominated by iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). The second location is on the edge of the coastal salt marsh at the site of the existing lift stations proposed to be removed and relocated. This site is bordered on the opposite side by Lower State Park Road, and a mixture of native and weedy groundcover. Coastal sage scrub borders the area to the southwest. The third location is within the existing campground where the relocated lift station is proposed to be located. This site consists of scattered Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and eucalyptus. The understory is dominated by dense iceplant. The project will also include some trenching in areas with mature eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress forest, and coastal sage scrub habitat.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES[3]

Sensitive biological resources that occur or potentially occur on the proposed project site are discussed in this section.

[3] For the purposes of this document, special-status species are defined as plants and animals that are legally protected or that are considered sensitive by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. Specifically, this includes species listed as state or federally Threatened or Endangered, those considered as candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered, species identified by the USFWS and/or CDFG as Species of Concern, animals identified by CDFG as Fully Protected or Protected, and plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered (i.e., plants on CNPS lists 1 and 2).

The following databases were investigated for sensitive animals, plants, and natural communities that may be found at or near the project site. The California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, September 2003) was queried for the Morro Bay South 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ventura Field Office website (http://ventura.fws.gov/counties/San%20Luis%20Obispo/slo_all.htm) was searched for sensitive species in San Luis Obispo County. Finally, the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (August 2001) was investigated.

Thirteen special-status wildlife species, twenty-four special-status plant species, and six sensitive natural communities were reported on the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle (CNDDB, 2003).

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Threatened and Endangered plants and wildlife species and Species of Concern are special-status species that have legal protection. The following Threatened and Endangered species and Species of Concern are the result of the CNDDB and CNPS inventory queries for the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle, and the USFWS list of protected species for San Luis Obispo County.

PLANT SPECIES

There were 24 sensitive plant species identified from the CNDDB and CNPS inventory search. The majority of these have little or no potential to occur near the project area. Three of these species may have potential habitat or are known to occur in Morro Bay State Park near the project construction area. The remaining 21 species are not known to occur in the vicinity of the state park or do not have suitable habitat potential within the park.

The project area includes saltwater marsh, central coastal sage scrub, and Monterey pine and eucalyptus forests. Many of the plant species noted on the CNDDB search for the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle require upland chaparral habitats, which are not found in or near the project site. These include several manzanita species, and serpentine-related species such as San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya *(Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *bettinae).* There is little or no potential that plants typically found in these habitats would be found at the project site.

The following plant species are listed on the CNDDB for the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle. There is little or no potential that these would be found within the project area, due to lack of suitable habitat:

Six of these species are manzanita species that are found in upland chaparral habitats and would not be expected near the project area, due to the absence of suitable habitat. These include Arroyo de la Cruz manzanita *(Arctostaphylos cruzensis),* Morro manzanita *(Arctostaphylos morroensis),* Oso manzanita *(Arctostaphylos osoensis),* Pecho manzanita *(Arctostaphylos pechoensis),* Dacite manzanita *(Arctostaphylos tomentosa* ssp*. daciticola),* and Wells's manzanita *(Arctostaphylos wellsii).* The Arroyo

de la Cruz manzanita and Wells's manzanita have been found in Morro Bay SP, however they were found east of the project site and would not be expected to occur within the project area.

Atriplex joaquiniana, the San Joaquin saltbush, would be found within alkali meadow habitat, which does not exist within the project area. The only record listed for this species on the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle is listed in 1899.

San Luis mariposa lily *(Calochortus obispoensis),* Cambria morning-glory *(Calystegia subacaulis* ssp*. episcopalis),* San Luis Obispo sedge *(Carex obispoensis),* Indian knob mountainbalm *(Eriodictyon altissimum),* and most beautiful jewel-flower *(Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus)* would all be found in drier upland chaparral, grassland, or woodland habitats, which are not found within or near the project area. Obispo Indian paintbrush *(Castilleja densiflora ssp. obispoensis)* would be found in upland valley and foothill grassland, which is not located within or near the project area. This plant is not known within Morro Bay SP and most of the listed sightings are from 1908, 1936, and 1940 (CNDDB, 2003). This plant would not be expected in or near the project area.

Dithyrea maritima, the beach spectaclepod, is found on coastal dunes. No suitable habitat exists for this plant within the project area. Blochman's leafy daisy *(Erigeron blochmaniae)* is also found on coastal dunes and has been listed in nearby Montana de Oro SP, but would not be expected within the project area. San Luis Obispo monardella *(Monardella frutescens)* has also been found on coastal dunes, and has no potential habitat within the project area.

Several species that are associated with rock outcrops and serpentine are also listed on the CNDDB query. These habitats do not occur within the project area. These species are the San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya *(Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *bettinae)* and Blochman's dudleya *(Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *blochmaniae)*. Jones's layia *(Layia jonesii)* is also associated with clay soils and serpentine outcrops, which are not found in or near the project area. Miles's milk-vetch *(Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus)* may also be found in heavy clay soils near serpentine rock. None of these plants would be expected within the project area due to lack of suitable habitat.

Splitting yarn lichen *(Sulcaria isidiifera)* is a federally listed Species of Concern that is found in oaks and chapparal. No suitable habitat for this species is found within the project area.

Suitable habitat may exist for the following three special-status plant species within the project area:

California sea-blite *(Suaeda californica)* is a Federally Endangered CNPS List 1B species. This plant is a succulent member of the goosefoot family *(Chenopodiaceae)* and is only known to occur in the Morro Bay area (EDAW, 2001), along the margins of coastal salt marshes. California sea-blite has been found in Morro Bay SP near the edge of the marina, and in the riprap along the dirt path at the marina parking lot (Shafer, pers. comm., 2003).). It has also been found approximately 17 meters southeast of the lift station nearest to the salt marsh (Walgren, pers. comm., 2003). Associates include pickleweed *(Salicornia virginica),* saltgrass *(Distichlis spicata),* and

iceplant *(Carpobrotus edulis*). There is some potentially suitable coastal salt marsh habitat in the project vicinity for California sea-blite. The project would not directly affect known populations of California sea-blite. However, the sewer lift station removal site near the salt marsh has potential for indirect effects, such as sedimentation. **Coulter's goldfields** *(Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri)* is a CNPS List 1B species. This species has been found at the southern end of the Morro Bay salt marsh, near Baywood Park. Suitable habitat exists for this plant near the salt marsh site, however none have been found there.

Salt marsh bird's-beak *(Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus)* is a Federal and State Endangered, CNPS List 1B species that has been found on Morro Spit and in Montana de Oro SP. It is typically found at the higher zones of salt marshes and coastal dunes (CNDDB, 2003). One listed occurrence of this species was found with California sea-blite, listed above. Some potential habitat exists for this plant near the project site, however none have ever been found there.

WILDLIFE SPECIES

Morro Bay State Park's diverse habitats support a variety of wildlife species. The eucalyptus and Monterey pine groves, salt marsh, and central coastal sage scrub provide suitable habitat for a variety of species. Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawks, and northern harriers and osprey have all been found here. Several raptor species use the mature Monterey pine and eucalyptus trees in the campground area for perching and nesting. A number of different shorebirds and ducks forage in the salt marsh and mudflats to the west. Coastal sage scrub also provides habitat for the California pocket mouse, striped racer, brush rabbit, California quail, and California thrasher. Song sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, and common yellowthroat may be found in palustrine emergent wetland habitats (EDAW, 2001).

Thirteen sensitive or endangered wildlife species were found on the query for the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle.

A number of sensitive wildlife species that have no potential to occur within the project area are listed on the CNDDB query for the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle. These include the Federally and State Endangered Morro Bay kangaroo rat *(Dipodomys heermanni morroensis),* which is endemic to the Morro Bay area. The Morro Bay kangaroo rat is only known from specific locations near Montana de Oro State Park. The Species of Special Concern San Diego desert woodrat *(Neotoma lepida intermedia),* found in dense sage scrub habitats, also has not been found in Morro Bay SP. In addition, Federally Threatened steelhead *(Oncorynchus mykiss irideus)* is listed in Chorro Creek and in Montana de Oro SP. The project site is distant from habitat for this species and will not impact their native habitat.

Special-status wildlife species that have the potential to occur in Morro Bay SP near the project site are described below.

Black legless lizard *(Anniella pulchra nigra).* The black legless lizard is a California Species of Special Concern. This reptile occurs primarily in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation, and may be found on sandy loam soils of stabilized dunes

under native coastal shrubs, including bush lupine *(Lupinus arboreus)* and mock heather *(Eriogonum parvifolium)* (EDAW, 2001). One occurrence of black legless lizard is listed in the CNDDB for Morro Bay SP, but the location is at Shark Inlet, which is distant from the project site. Central coastal sage scrub near the project site may provide suitable habitat for the black legless lizard.

California horned lizard *(Phrynosoma coronatum frontale)* is a Federal Species of Concern and a California Species of Special Concern, and may be found in sandy washes with scattered shrubs dominated by manzanita. This species has not been found in Morro Bay SP, and is not expected in the project area due to the lack of suitable habitat.

Two-striped garter snake *(Thamnophis hammondii)* is a California Species of Special Concern. This species is associated with perennial and intermittent streams that have rocky beds and dense riparian vegetation. This species is not expected near the project area due to lack of suitable habitat.

Southwestern pond turtle *(Clemmys marmorata pallida)* is a Federal Species of Concern and a California Species of Special Concern. Southwestern (SW) pond turtles are normally associated with permanent ponds, lakes, and streams or permanent pools along intermittent streams. They prefer sites with dense emergent vegetation. They also utilize upland nesting sites near aquatic sites. Freshwater wetland habitats outside of the project area may provide habitat for SW pond turtles in Morro Bay SP, but the project site does not provide suitable upland habitat. Southwestern pond turtles are not expected in the project sites due to lack of suitable habitat.

California red-legged frog *(Rana aurora draytonii)* is Federally Threatened and a California Species of Special Concern. The California red-legged frog (CRLF) occurs near quiet permanent pools of streams, marshes, and ponds in coastal California. It prefers dense riparian vegetation including arroyo willow *(Salix lasiolepis),* cattails *(Typha* spp.) and bulrushes *(Scirpus* spp.). Juveniles may prefer open, shallow aquatic habitats (EDAW, 2001). Morro Bay SP is an area proposed as critical habitat by the USFWS. CRLF have been found in Morro Bay SP near Chorro Creek, and could occur in small wetlands that are near Lower State Park Road. There is limited potential that CRLF may occur in the project area, due to lack of suitable habitat. However, there is some potential that the project could affect CRLF that may be dispersing to sites away from known habitat locations. Direct effects could occur to CRLF during project excavation. Excavation holes may partially fill with water during project construction, and these have some potential to attract CRLF. These excavation holes are likely to be saline, due to the proximity to the salt marsh, but fresh water could arise from the water table during construction. Overall, there is relatively low potential due to lack of suitable habitat, and because water near the salt marsh would have higher salinity. There would be no effects to CRLF post-construction, and potential impacts would occur only during project construction.

Tidewater goby *(Eucyclogobius newberryi)* is a Federally Endangered Species and California Species of Special Concern. This fish may be found in brackish water and

shallow lagoon habitats, and has been observed in Chorro Creek at Morro Bay SP. This habitat would not be directly affected by the project.

Monarch butterfly *(Danaus plexippus).* Monarch butterflies are not listed by state or federal agencies, however CDFG and State Parks consider the roosting sites at Morro Bay SP campground to be a sensitive natural resource. Monarchs migrate a great distance between Mexico and Canada, and traditionally use sites along the California coast to overwinter. Monarch butterflies have been found in winter roosting sites in the campground eucalyptus and Monterey cypress trees, sometimes numbering in the thousands (EDAW, 2001). The butterflies also may roost nearby at the Morro Bay Golf Course. Trees that the monarchs have recently used for roosting are not located near the project sites, and the project would not directly affect Monarch butterfly habitat.

Morro shoulderband snail *(Helminthoglypta walkeriana).* The Morro shoulderband or banded dune snail (Federally Endangered) has been found in Morro Bay State Park. This species is found in coastal dune scrub, coastal strand, and coastal sage scrub habitats (CNDDB, 2003). Morro shoulderband snails require sand or sandy soils, slopes no greater than 10%, and coastal dune scrub vegetation (EDAW, 2001). This snail has been found in the park at a site distant from the project area. A current survey for this species following USFWS protocol is now underway in the park. There is limited potential that this snail would be found at the project site. This snail would not be expected near the project zone, based on the limited suitable habitat and prior observations (Walgren, pers. comm., 2003).

Cooper's hawk *(Accipiter cooperi)* and **northern harrier** *(Circus cyaneus),* both California Species of Special Concern, have been found in the eucalyptus and Monterey pine near the project site. Other species found in the campground include the Federal Species of Concern and California Fully Protected **white-tailed kite** *(Elanus leucurus)* and **osprey** *(Pandion haliaetus),* a California Species of Special Concern. Other raptors known to occur at Morro Bay SP are the red-tailed hawk *(Buteo jamaicensis),* and red-shouldered hawk *(Buteo lineatus)*. These species may use the mature trees in the campground area for perching and some species may nest there. They may forage in the nearby coastal sage scrub and salt marsh (EDAW, 2001).

California clapper rail *(Rallus longirotris obsoletus)* is a Federally and State Endangered, and California Fully Protected species. This bird is typically found in salt water and brackish marshes near tidal sloughs, and may be found feeding near dense pickleweed *(Salicornia virginica)* (CNDDB, 2003). There is only limited potential habitat for this species near the project site. However, this species is not expected to be found here, and the last recorded sighting near Morro Bay was in 1939.

California black rail *(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)* is a Federal Species of Concern and State Threatened, and California Fully Protected species. It may be found in salt marshes, bordering larger bays, dominated by pickleweed (CNDDB, 2003). It may also be found in low-elevation freshwater and brackish marshes. This species has been found in the salt marsh at Morro Bay SP. The project would not directly affect this species, however indirect effects could result from construction activity.

Large-billed savannah sparrow *(Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus)* is a California Species of Special Concern. This species has been found near the project site and winters in central coastal sage scrub. Its habitat may not be directly affected by project construction but could be affected by nearby construction activities.

SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Sensitive natural communities are those that are regionally uncommon, unusually diverse, or of special concern to local, state, and federal agencies. Elimination or substantial degradation of these communities would constitute a significant impact under CEQA.

The CNDDB query lists Central Dune Scrub, Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh, Coastal Brackish Marsh, and Northern Coastal Salt Marsh as sensitive plant communities that exist within the Morro Bay South quadrangle. These natural community types may all be found within Morro Bay SP. In addition, Central Maritime Chaparral and Valley Needlegrass Grassland are also listed on the Morro Bay South USGS quadrangle, however, these communities do not occur near the project site.

Central Dune Scrub. Central coast dune scrub can be found in foredunes and on the sand spit at Morro Bay SP. None of these areas will be affected by this project.

Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh. Freshwater wetland and riparian vegetation that is covered under this description may be found near Chorro Creek and at the emergent wetlands near the employee residences at Lower State Park Road. These areas may be dominated by willows, tules, and bulrush. This habitat will not be affected by this project.

Coastal Brackish Marsh. Coastal brackish marsh, dominated by salt-tolerant plants such as saltgrass, pickleweed, and tules, may be found near Chorro Creek in the Morro Bay Estuary. This area will not be affected by project activities.

Northern Coastal Salt Marsh. This community type, dominated by pickleweed, is found at the Morro Bay salt marsh that borders Lower State Park Road. The removal of the old lift station near the marsh will affect this natural community.

Central Coastal Sage Scrub. This natural community is limited in central coastal California. It may provide habitat for a number of endemic species, including the black legless lizard, California horned lizard, and the large-billed savannah sparrow. Coastal sage scrub is found adjacent to the salt marsh and the marina, and in parts of the campground.

Jurisdictional Waters of the United States. Within the project area, wetlands that meet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wetland criteria are found only at the salt marsh adjacent to Morro Bay. This area is strongly dominated by pickleweed *(Salicornia virginica).*

Riparian Habitat. Riparian habitat and palustrine emergent wetlands are found in Morro Bay State Park near Lower State Park Road and employee residences. These are also

considered sensitive habitats. However, the riparian zones are far from the project construction area and would not be affected by this project.

The City of Morro Bay Local Coastal Land Use Plan (2003) also identifies the following areas as Environmentally Sensitive Habitats within Morro Bay SP: Morro Bay Estuary, Chorro Creek, sand dunes, and palustrine emergent wetlands. Project construction will not directly impact any of these environmentally sensitive areas.

WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

USACE defines wetlands as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The majority of USACE jurisdictional wetlands meet three wetland delineation criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil types, and wetland hydrology.

Riparian vegetation associated with rivers, streams, or lakes in California is also subject to regulation by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). These regulations are described in Sections 1600 through 1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, and cover alterations to the natural flow, bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. No riparian zones will be affected by this project.

The California Coastal Commission's definition of wetlands includes all "lands which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water" (Section 30121, Coastal Act). This definition requires the presence of only one of the three wetland attributes recognized by USACE. The portion of the project area located near the salt marsh (south of Lower State Park Road) is within the Coastal Commission's original permit jurisdiction and therefore is subject to the Coastal Act wetland definition.

The coastal salt marsh near the eastern lift station is a wetland under USACE and Coastal Act jurisdiction. Less than 0.5 acre of wetlands will be affected by the project. No other wetlands are found in the project area.

The saltwater marsh is described in the CNDDB as Northern Coastal Salt Marsh, and found under the Manual of California Vegetation's Common Pickleweed *(Salicornia virginica)* series. This series is additionally listed as "rare and worthy of consideration by the CNDDB" (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995).

ISSUES	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☒
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

a) As described in the Environmental Setting section, two threatened and endangered plant species could potentially be affected by project construction activities near the salt marsh. These species include the California sea-blite (Federal Endangered, CNPS List 1B) and salt marsh bird's-beak (Federal and State Endangered, CNPS List 1B). California sea-blite has been found in Morro Bay SP near the marina, and near the salt marsh where one sewer lift station would be removed. There is some potential for indirect impacts (primarily sedimentation) to California sea-blite due to construction near the project site. The potential for finding the salt marsh bird's-beak is lesser at this site. This species has not been previously found near the proposed construction zone, but some limited potential suitable habitat exists. The construction zone is in previously disturbed habitat on the edge of the coastal salt marsh, so it is expected that if these plant species are found, avoidance measures would be adequate to conserve the plants. The following mitigation measure will reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1 SENSITIVE PLANT PROTECTION

- Prior to the start of construction, surveys would be conducted at the appropriate blooming months in the proposed project area. For California sea-blite, surveys may be conducted at any time of year. For salt marsh bird's-beak, surveys would be conducted in July–August. Any occurrence of these species would be mapped and flagged onsite prior to the construction period by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. These sites would be avoided and protected by orange plastic-mesh safety fencing during the construction period, with a buffer of at least 25 feet surrounding the sensitive plant population.
- The USFWS would be consulted for guidelines for protection and conservation of California sea-blite. Construction activities will follow avoidance and mitigation measures provided by the USFWS.
- Erosion control measures would be in place to protect sensitive plant species and salt marsh habitat. (See Mitigation Measure BIO-8.) The known California sea-blite occurrence near the lift station removal site would be protected from sedimentation by these erosion control measures.

As described in the Environmental Setting section, a number of special-status wildlife species may exist within the project zone. Project activities could result in significant impact to one or more of these species. In addition, excavation for the lift station tanks would temporarily create two deep (temporarily flooded) holes during the construction period. Trenching near mature trees could potentially affect nesting birds. The following mitigation measures for wildlife species and their habitat would reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2 GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION

- A DPR-approved biologist would conduct a training session for all project personnel prior to the start of construction. Instruction will cover identification of sensitive species and their habitat, and the specific measures required to protect and avoid sensitive wildlife and habitats. Training will address general conservation measures, proper disposal of and covering of trash and construction debris, and proper response to fluid spills. Training will also address measures to identify, conserve, and protect sensitive species if any are found at the construction site, and the appropriate response to observation of any sensitive species. The training will be completed prior to authorizing personnel to work in the project area.
- A DPR-approved biologist (Biological monitor) would conduct visual surveys of the project site each day prior to the start of construction activity, to ensure that no sensitive wildlife species are found within the construction zone. If sensitive wildlife species are found within the construction boundaries, they will be temporarily relocated by a DPR-approved biologist (or USFWS-permitted biologist) as necessary. Construction activities may be temporarily modified to maintain a safe distance from sensitive wildlife until the animal is temporarily relocated. If a listed threatened or endangered species is found, the biological monitor would have the authority to suspend or modify work in the area until the USFWS has approved an appropriate course of action. The monitor would notify appropriate DPR personnel and the USFWS immediately following any work stoppage. The biological monitor will communicate issues directly to the State's Representative.
- Exclusion fencing would be installed at appropriate locations around work areas and around project excavation sites. A DPR-approved biologist would identify placement of fencing and the appropriate type. Orange plastic-mesh safety fencing with 4" mesh (to allow small wildlife passage) will be placed around general construction areas. All exclusion fencing used onsite would have minimum 4" mesh unless specified otherwise.
- A DPR-approved biologist would meet with the State's Representative and contractor to identify construction boundaries, staging areas, and access routes prior to the start of construction. These areas would be fenced with safety fencing or flagged if appropriate. All activity and equipment would be kept within designated staging and work areas, unless approved by the project resource ecologist.
- Project excavation sites (for sewer lift station tanks) would be covered at night and when no construction activity is occurring, by plastic or another DPR biologist-approved method . These excavations would be monitored daily by a DPR-qualified biologist. The walls of these holes would be maintained by sandbags or sheet pile as designated in Mitigation Measure BIO-9.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2 GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION, CONT.

- The contractor will prepare a spill prevention and response plan prior to the start of construction, and maintain a spill kit onsite throughout the life of the project. This plan would include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. All fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 50 feet from any water source (wetlands, streams, ponds, seeps, springs, etc.) or riparian habitat. Fueling and maintenance would be conducted on pavement unless designated otherwise. Equipment washing would only occur within a designated, contained wash area. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form at the project site or within the boundaries of Morro Bay State Park during construction, the contractor would immediately notify the State Representative.
- Mature tree protection: Trenching activities would be conducted at a depth and location to avoid mature tree roots. If tree roots >3" diameter are encountered, the contractor will excavate by hand underneath tree roots. Alternatively, boring or trenching will go at least three feet deep to avoid mature tree roots. No mature trees are planned for removal as a result of this project. If an individual tree must be removed due to trenching activities, the DPR resource ecologist will determine an appropriate restoration. If any construction work is conducted immediately next to mature trees, these would be protected with safety fencing and/or certified weed-free straw bales.

California red-legged frogs have been found in Morro Bay SP, however, they were distant from the project site. No work will occur in known CRLF habitat during this project. No suitable foraging or breeding habitat is available for CRLF within the project footprint. However, the project excavations to remove the sewer lift station near the salt marsh, and to install a new sewer lift station in the campground, may result in a temporary attraction for CRLF. These excavations may partially fill with water during construction, which will most likely have high salinity due to the proximity to the salt marsh. The excavations would also be at least partially dewatered during construction. The pits would be exposed for a period of up to four weeks, but the actual excavation period would most likely be less. The following mitigation measures, in addition to implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, would reduce any potentially adverse impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3 CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG PROTECTION

- A survey would be conducted for CRLF near the project excavation sites between May and November.
- At least 7 days prior to the onset of activities, DPR would submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists who would conduct activities as Service-approved biologists to USFWS for approval.
- Immediately prior to the start of work each morning, a Service-approved biologist or DPR-qualified resource ecologist will conduct a visual survey of the construction zone, prior to the start of work. If California red-legged frogs are found, start of work at that project site would be delayed until the species moves on its own accord out of the project site, is protected, or is temporarily relocated by a USFWS-approved biologist. No handling or harassing of California red-legged frogs would occur.
- A Service-approved biologist or DPR-qualified resource ecologist will monitor all ground-disturbing activities in known or potential red-legged frog habitat. If a California red-legged frog is found within the work area, work will be temporarily halted or diverted while the USFWS-approved biological monitor relocates the frog to suitable habitat outside the project area.
- Before any construction activities begin on a project, a Service-approved biologist would conduct a training session for all construction and park personnel working within the project area. At a minimum, the training would include a description of the California red-legged frog and their habitats; the importance of the species' and their habitats; the general measures that would be implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog, as they relate to the project; and the physical boundaries within which the project would be accomplished. The training session would include instruction in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a California red-legged frog is found onsite. Brochures, books and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions. Handouts with photos of both species would be provided to construction personnel. (See also Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- All fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 50 feet from any water source (wetlands, streams, ponds, seeps, springs, etc.) or riparian habitat, as approved by the DPR resource ecologist. Fueling and maintenance would be conducted on pavement unless designated otherwise. The contractor will prepare a spill prevention and response plan prior to the start of construction, and maintain a spill kit onsite throughout the life of the project. Any equipment washing would only occur within a designated, contained wash area (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- Construction zones would be fenced with plastic 4"-mesh safety fencing to allow small wildlife passage. A DPR-qualified resource ecologist will determine fencing placement (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- Project excavations will be covered at night with plastic or another DPR biologist-approved method (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).

As discussed in the Environmental Setting section, several raptor species may forage and nest in trees in Morro Bay SP campground. Raptors and their nests are protected under California Fish and Game Code (Section 3503.3). The disturbance or loss of an active raptor nest would be considered a significant impact, so the risk of nest disturbance or removal would be considered a potentially significant effect. In addition, all nesting birds are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and disruption of any nesting birds would be considered a significant effect. The following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to raptors and other nesting birds to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4 GENERAL PROTECTION MEASURES FOR NESTING BIRDS

- No trees would be removed during the nesting season. If any trees must be removed as a result of this project, this work would occur between September 1 (after young have fledged) and February 1 to protect nesting birds. If trees must be removed at other times of year, then preconstruction surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if there are nesting birds in a specific tree. If active nests are found, then no tree removal would occur within 500 feet of any tree with an active nest during this time period.
- If construction activities with significant noise levels (such as driving sheet pile) will occur during the nesting season, then the surrounding area would be surveyed for nests in a 500-foot radius from this site. Surveys would be conducted by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If nests are found, then these construction activities (causing significant noise levels) would not be conducted within 500 feet of an active nest during the nesting season, or until young have fledged.

Sensitive bird species, including the California black rail (Federal Special Concern, State Threatened) and large-billed savannah sparrow (California Species of Special Concern), may be present in the project area. California black rails have been found in the past in the coastal salt marsh near the project area, however the salt marsh edge, where the project excavation will occur, does not provide ideal nesting habitat for California black rails. The removal of the lift station near the salt marsh edge has some potential to affect nesting California black rails if they are present. (This excavation work is expected to be completed in one week or less.) Project construction activities are not expected to affect California black rails that are only foraging in the area. Also, there will be a small gain of salt marsh vegetation postconstruction, because the footprint now occupied by the old lift station and tank will be replaced by native vegetation. Large-billed savannah sparrows are found overwintering in coastal sage scrub habitat in the Morro Bay SP campground. Trenching in coastal sage scrub during winter months could affect these birds. The following mitigation measures will reduce potential impacts to these species to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5 SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

- California black rail: If construction activities will be initiated during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31) near the salt marsh, then surveys would be conducted in the salt marsh by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist, prior to construction. If California black rail nests are found within 500 feet of the salt marsh lift station site, then no construction activities would be conducted in this zone during this time period. This zone would be flagged and monitored by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If it is determined appropriate by CDFG, the buffer zone may be modified by the resource ecologist. No project operations would occur in this area until the young have left the nest.
- Large-billed savannah sparrows are known to winter in coastal sage scrub near the project site. Construction activities will be prohibited from working in coastal sage scrub habitat, with an additional 25-foot buffer, during winter months (November to March). If construction trenching will occur near coastal sage scrub during this time period, then this habitat would be flagged or fenced (safety fencing) by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If trenching work must occur during this time period in coastal sage scrub habitat, then a DPR-qualified resource ecologist would conduct a survey for the birds near the trenching site prior to construction. If determined appropriate, a DPR-qualified resource ecologist may modify this buffer if construction activity and bird behavior permit.

Although not listed as a sensitive species, the Monarch butterfly *(Danaus plexippus*) is considered a sensitive resource by CDFG and DPR during its annual migration and winter roosting periods. Blue gum eucalyptus is considered a primary habitat for winter roosts in California. However, the trees typically used in the Morro Bay SP campground by monarchs are distant from the project site, and the monarchs that are present tolerate disturbances from the campground. No known monarch butterfly trees are planned for removal as a part of this project, however there is a slight possibility that a tree or trees will need to be removed for trenching. If monarchs may be affected by this project, the following mitigation measures would reduce the impact to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6 MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

- If construction work is to be conducted during the monarch butterfly wintering period (October to March), or in the unlikely event that removal of a tree or trees is required, a DPR-qualified biologist would inspect the site, prior to construction. If butterflies are present, construction activities will be limited from this site, with a 50’ buffer zone. The DPR-qualified biologist may modify this buffer if appropriate, based on the type of construction activity occurring at the site.

The Morro shoulderband snail (Federally Endangered) has been found in Morro Bay State Park. However, the sites where the snail has been found are distant from the

project zone. Surveys following USFWS protocol are currently being conducted near the project site. This snail is not expected to be found near the project zone, based on the limited potential habitat and prior observations. However, if snails are present, the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7 MORRO SHOULDERBAND SNAIL

- Prior to the construction period, a USFWS-permitted biologist will complete surveys for the Morro shoulderband snail in the project zones.
- If shoulderband snails are found, the DPR resource ecologist would consult with USFWS to determine appropriate mitigation measures. DPR and its contractors will implement mitigations as required by USFWS, under the supervision of the project resource ecologist.
- If shoulderband snails are found in the project area after construction begins, work within the immediate vicinity of the find may be temporarily halted or diverted until a USFWS-approved course of action is determined and implemented.

b) Sensitive habitat would be temporarily affected, but not permanently lost as a result of this project. The project has the potential to temporarily affect northern coastal salt marsh, a sensitive natural community identified by the CNDDB. Coastal sage scrub is additionally considered a sensitive community and provides habitat for a number of sensitive species, including the black legless lizard, California horned lizard, and large-billed savannah sparrow. Project excavation for one lift station and tank will temporarily affect the edge of the salt marsh. Trenching for sewer lines may affect small patches of coastal sage scrub. The location now occupied by the sewer lift station on the edge of the salt marsh will be restored to salt marsh habitat. This project is expected to provide a benefit to coastal salt marsh habitat, because the old lift station now present has some potential for malfunction, contamination, or spillage, which could affect nearby environmentally sensitive habitat and wildlife. In addition, the footprint now occupied by the lift station, tank, and some nonnative vegetation and landscaping, would be replaced by native salt marsh habitat and vegetation. The project would have the two benefits of gaining native vegetation and habitat, and removing a potential negative impact to the environment (contamination).

Restoration following the project would result in a small gain of coastal salt marsh habitat at this site. No salt marsh habitat would be permanently lost as a result of this project. This project would affect less than 0.5 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat due to trenching for sewer lines. The following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-8 SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- A DPR-qualified resource ecologist will identify an appropriate buffer zone around the edge of the salt marsh and coastal sage scrub habitats adjacent to the existing lift station, prior to the start of any work in that area. Temporary protective fencing will be installed and all construction operations will be excluded from this area. Fencing will remain in place until all construction activities with the potential to impact the buffered areas are completed.
- Excavated soil will only be deposited at designated sites near the Lower State Park Road, outside of the salt marsh; disposal sites will be separated from the salt marsh by approved containment and erosion control methods (see below and Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and GEO-2).
- No trenching work will occur within coastal sage scrub habitat without prior approval of the project resource ecologist. Sensitive habitat areas along the trench line will be identified and flagged or fenced prior to the start of work. If trenching must occur in sensitive habitat, the project resource ecologist will map sensitive habitat and consult with contractor/State Representative to determine methods to avoid or reduce potential impacts. Work that could result in a potentially significant environmental impact that cannot be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by mitigations proposed in this document will not be performed under this MND. Such actions will be evaluated separately and, if proposed for implementation, will be addressed in an appropriate separate environmental document.
- Project sites in coastal sage scrub and coastal salt marsh would be restored to native habitat after construction activity is complete. Prior to construction, native plants would be salvaged from the construction site and transplanted post-construction if appropriate. Small patches of coastal sage scrub that are disturbed by trenching would be restored onsite post-construction. If coastal sage scrub habitat will be lost as a result of this project construction activity, the loss would be mitigated by restoration at a minimum 3:1 ratio within the campground. No noxious weeds will be introduced onsite. Iceplant currently occupying project sites would be replaced by appropriate native species of local genetic stock.
- A detailed restoration plan would be prepared and implemented for habitat replacement for salt marsh and coastal sage scrub communities by the DPR resource ecologist. The restoration plan may include the following: plant materials, weed control, and maintenance methods. The restoration plan would also outline a project timeline, success criteria and contingency actions, and a monitoring plan.

c) Removal of the lift station near the salt marsh will temporarily disturb wetlands under USACE and Coastal Commission jurisdiction. The wetlands disturbed will total less than 0.5 acre. Project activity will remove a lift station and excavate a tank that are in close proximity to the salt marsh, thus resulting in temporary affects to the wetland. No wetlands will be permanently lost as a result of this project. The present lift

station location will be restored post-construction, and there will be a small net benefit of wetland habitat, as described above in Discussion b). Salt marsh habitat will be enhanced post-construction, and the site now occupied by the lift station will be restored with native plants. The following mitigation measure will reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-9 WETLANDS

- A formal delineation of wetlands that would meet USACE and Coastal Commission criteria will be completed by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist prior to the start of construction.
- Wetlands that may be affected by construction activities will be protected by safety fencing. During construction, DPR-approved best management practices (BMPs) would be used to ensure that work does not result in increased erosion or siltation (see Mitigation Measures BIO-8 and HYDRO-1). Erosion control measures, such as weed-free straw bales or wattle barriers, and sediment traps and/or basins would be installed along the perimeter of the construction site and around areas where ditches or culverts could channel site runoff into nearby wetlands or sensitive biological communities.
- At the proposed lift station and tank removal near the salt marsh, wetland habitat will be restored onsite. Habitat restoration or replacement would be performed using methods acceptable to the CCC and the USACE. Wetland (coastal salt marsh) habitat restoration would be outlined in the restoration plan (see Mitigation Measure BIO-8).
- The sides of deep excavation holes in or near wetlands would be maintained by sandbags, sheet pile, or other approved method.

d) This project will not permanently cause interference with movement of any fish or wildlife species. However, construction activity and specified zones protected by safety fencing could temporarily restrict wildlife movement through the campground area. The fenced areas at the lift stations and in designated trenching locations would be small and would not significantly affect large wildlife. The 4” mesh design would allow passage of small wildlife through the project areas. There would be no restriction of access through the campground or sensitive natural communities, nor would there be effects on breeding activities of native species at Morro Bay SP. Less than significant impact.

e) This project does not conflict with any local ordinances, adopted conservation plans, or policies. There are no trees planned or expected for removal for this project. There is a small chance that some campground trees could be affected by trenching (primarily invasive blue gum eucalyptus and some Monterey pines). If it is determined that selected trees must be removed as a result of trenching, a Tree Removal Plan and mitigation measures would be prepared as designated in Mitigation Measure BIO-2. Less than significant impact.

f) This project does not conflict with any designated conservation plan. No impact.

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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Under CEQA Guidelines, as outlined in Section 15064.5(a)(3) of the Code of California Regulations (CCRs), "historical resources" shall include any object, building, structure, site (including archaeological sites), area, place, record, or manuscript that the lead agency (DPR, in this case) determines to be historically significant in the annals of California. Generally, a resource is considered to be "historically significant" if it meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources [Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 5024.1; Title 14 CCR, Section 4852] and retains integrity.

Archaeological testing has been performed at this site under Public Resources Code 5024.5 in order to evaluate the potential impact of construction related to the Morro Bay Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project. Portions of the site have been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resources due to the lack of integrity of the deposit (Steidl and Wheeler, 2000). The other portions have not yet been tested and may retain sufficient integrity to be eligible based upon the potential to provide data about past human lifeways.

Historic resources within the project area include the old marsh-edge day use and picnic area along the south side of Lower State Park Road developed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The stone steps, walls, stoves and picnic tables of the day use area may be eligible as contributing elements of an historic landscape constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, historic resources are present within the project area. These include the remains of stone steps, walls, stoves, and picnic tables developed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The visible remains of the steps, stoves, retaining walls, and picnic tables are downslope from the project area and will not be impacted. However, photographs from the 1930s

show additional tables and stoves upslope from those that still exist, within or near the project area. It is unknown whether these have been completely removed or if subsurface features remain. By implementing Mitigation Measure CULT-1, the potential impacts of the proposed project on unknown CCCC resources will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1

- An avoidance zone around the CCC stone steps, walls, stoves, and picnic tables will be flagged prior to the start of construction. The DPR project archaeologist will consult with the project manager and contractor(s) to develop a site avoidance plan that will avoid impacts to all identified archaeological sites and artifacts within the project's area of potential effect.
- A qualified DPR archaeologist will monitor all ground-disturbing activities within the project area. If potentially significant resources are unearthed, work in the immediate area of the find would be temporarily halted or diverted until identification and proper treatment are determined and implemented. The DPR Service Center or District Cultural Resource Section would be notified a minimum of three weeks prior to the start of ground-disturbing work to schedule monitoring, unless other arrangements are made in advance.
- A report of the findings from the monitoring and any resulting excavations would be completed and copies distributed to the Cultural Resource Division, California State Park Headquarters; the DPR Central Service Center; and San Luis Obispo District Headquarters.

c) Prehistoric archaeological resources have been identified or are known to exist within the project area. It is unlikely that the portions of the deposit that could be affected by the proposed project will be found to be any more intact than those already tested. However, because of the large size of the footprint of the proposed new eastern lift station, additional testing will be done at this location. Should previously unknown significant archaeological resources be discovered, data recovery excavations would be required in this area prior to the start of construction. The implementation of the following Mitigation Measure CULT-2, in conjunction with CULT-1 above, will reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-2

- Prior to the start of construction, a qualified DPR cultural resource specialist (historian and/or archaeologist) will perform extended sub-surface testing and survey at the proposed eastern lift station site. Depending on initial test results, archaeological data recovery excavation would be conducted at the proposed eastern lift station site, prior to the start of construction. Artifacts recovered would be cleaned, sorted, catalogued, and prepared for curation; artifacts would be curated at a DPR facility. Features encountered would be recorded in place or recovered and archived at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist. Where appropriate, specialized studies would be performed, consistent with professional archaeological standards. A report of the findings from the excavations would be completed and copies distributed to Cultural Resource Division, California State Park Headquarters; the DPR Central Service Center; and San Luis Obispo District Headquarters.
- The local Native American tribal representative(s) will be consulted prior to the start of work to determine their level of concern. A Native American monitor will have the option to be present during all ground-disturbing activities, including test excavations, at their discretion.

c) There is documentation of Native American burials in the region, so there is a potential of inadvertently discovering previously unknown burials. If any human remains or burial artifacts are identified during construction activities, implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-3 would reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-3

- In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR State Representative, District or Sector Superintendent, or authorized representative will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.

  If the coroner or tribal representative determines the remains represent Native American internment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC 5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination.
- If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site; the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representative will also occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Environmental Setting

Topography

The topography of Morro Bay State Park (Park) ranges from sea level along to coast to the highest point of 911 feet at Cerro Cabrillo (see Appendix A, Figure 1). Situated along the southern edge of the hills of the Santa Lucia Range, the Park includes the westernmost end of a row of volcanic peaks, called The Morros (DPR, 1988). The Morros located within the Park boundaries are, from west to east, Morro Rock, Black Hill, and Cerro Cabrillo. The project area is located on a relatively flat area of old stabilized sand dunes (EDAW, 2001) bordered to the south and west by Morro Bay and to the southeast by the Morro Estuary Natural Reserve. The land slopes slightly to the north toward the golf course and then more steeply to the peak of Black Hill.

Geology

The Park is located at the southern end of the California Coast Range Geomorphic Province, a northwest-trending chain of mountains that formed primarily due to movement along the San Andreas Fault and associated faults. The Park is located on the Salinian Block, a major structural unit of the earth's continental crust that is located along the California coast west of the San Andreas Fault Zone. Salinian rocks consist of Jurassic to Cretaceous age granitic, metamorphic, and volcanic rocks that formed some 350 miles to the south and began moving north during the Miocene (26 to 7 million years ago) as the San Andreas Fault was activated. This block of land continues to move in a relative northerly direction along the northeast trending San Andreas Fault Zone.

The Park is underlain by Cretaceous-age (140-65 million years old) Franciscan Formation bedrock, composed of Franciscan mélange[4], greywacke sandstone, serpentinite[5], diabase[6], basalt, and chert (DPR, 1988). The Morros (Morro Rock-Islay Hill Complex) are younger (20-25 million-year old) remnants (volcanic plugs) of volcanoes that intruded the older Franciscan Formation about the time the San Andreas Fault was activated (Sierra Club, 2003). The former surface expression of the volcanoes has been eroded away, along with the surrounding Franciscan rocks. The more resistant rock of the volcanic cores, composed of siliceous volcanic rocks (dacite, rhyodacite, and rhyolite[7]), remains to form the distinctive hills named the Morros. Recent surficial deposits at the campground consist of stabilized sand dunes. Also, sediment dredged from Morro Bay harbor may be present in the campground area.

Soils

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[4] Franciscan mélange: A sheared mixture of shale and sandstone with some coherent blocks of rocks.

[5] Serpentinite: Formed from igneous rocks of the ocean crust (usually peridotite), composed of the mineral serpentine, which forms as the igneous minerals olivine and pyroxene are subjected to rising temperature and pressure conditions along a subduction plate boundary.

[6] Diabase: A dark-gray to black, fine-textured igneous rock composed mainly of feldspar and pyroxene. It is similar to basalt.

[7] Dacite, Rhyodacite, Rhyolite: Light gray volcanic rocks containing a mixture of plagioclase feldspar and other crystalline minerals in glassy silica. Approximate volcanic equivalent of granite.

According to the USDA soil survey (USDA, 1977) the project site is underlain by the Baywood fine sand, a gently rolling soil formed in deposits of eolian (wind-blown) sand. This sand to loamy sand soil has slow to moderate runoff and a moderate erosion hazard. It is more susceptible to wind and water erosion if vegetative cover is removed. It is prone to caving in excavations, has a low shrink-swell potential, and is moderately corrosive.

Seismicity

The project site is located in the seismically active Central California Coast region. The closest major active (Holocene to Recent) faults to the project site are the Hosgri Fault Zone, located approximately eight miles offshore to the west, and the San Andreas Fault Zone, located approximately 48 miles to the east (EDAW, 2001). Closer faults that bound the Park are the Los Osos Fault Zone, approximately two miles to the south, and the Cambria Fault, approximately three miles to the northeast. The Morro Bay General Plan Safety Element maps designate the Los Osos Fault (Trace B) as active and the Cambria Fault is designated as potentially active (San Luis Obispo County, 2000). The Hosgri Fault is capable of generating an earthquake of Maximum Moment Magnitude (M) 7.3 and the Cholame section of the San Andreas Fault is capable of generating an earthquake of M6.9 (Petersen, et al., 1996). The Los Osos Fault is capable of generating an earthquake of M6.8 (Petersen, et al., 1996). The Seismic Shaking Hazard Map (Petersen, 1999) shows that the Park lies within a zone that has a 10% probability of experiencing moderate shaking on the order of 0.2g to 0.4g peak ground acceleration[8] within 50 years. The campground area may experience stronger shaking due to the underlying materials (sand dunes and possible dredge fill).

IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☒	☐	☐

[8] The most commonly used measure of the amplitude of a particular ground motion is peak ground acceleration. The peak ground acceleration for a given component of motion is the largest value of horizontal acceleration obtained from a seismograph. Peak ground acceleration is expressed as the percentage of the acceleration due to gravity (g), which is approximately 980 centimeters per second squared.

	iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project site is located within the seismically active Central California coastal region, between the San Andreas and Hosgri Fault zones. While the chances of the rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground-shaking, or seismic-related ground failure are certainly possible in this area, this project would not substantially increase the exposure of people or structures to risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of these events. The proposed project would not add any element or structure that would increase public exposure. No impact.

i) The Morro Bay State Park site is not located on or near an active fault as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map from the California Geological Survey. Therefore, no risk from surface fault rupture should occur at the project site. No impact.

ii) The California Geological Survey has determined that the Chloame segment of the San Andreas Fault Zone, the Hosgri Fault Zone, and the Los Osos Fault are capable of generating earthquakes of M6.9, M7.3, and M6.8, respectively (Petersen, et al., 1996). The expected ground acceleration at the project site is on the order of 0.2g to 0.4g (Petersen, 1999). Since this project involves the upgrade of an existing system, there would be no increased risk to the public or to structures. Damage to property can be reduced to less than significant by implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 below.

iii) Seismic-induced ground failure, such as liquefaction, usually occurs in unconsolidated granular soils that are water saturated. During seismic-induced ground shaking, pore water pressure can increase in loose soils, causing the soils to change from a solid to a liquid state (liquefaction). The sandy, relatively unconsolidated site soils have a high liquefaction potential, as shown on the

Morro Bay Liquefaction Hazards Map (San Luis Obispo, 2000). Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would reduce this impact to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1 – SEISMIC BUILDING REQUIREMENTS
• The proposed new lift station will conform to earthquake design requirements as described in the 2001 California Building Code. • New equipment installed within the wastewater lift station will be secured to limit movement during a seismic event. • State Park staff will inspect and repair the sewage system if necessary as soon as possible after a large earthquake.

iv) While landslides have been mapped in the steeper regions of Morro Bay State Park (on Black Hill) no landslides have been mapped within the project area. Therefore, there is less than significant impact from a seismically triggered landslide.

b) A temporary increase in erosion may occur during the phases of this project during grading and trenching for utility lines and any other ground-disturbing activities. Site soils are prone to wind and water erosion when disturbed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-2 below will reduce soil erosion or loss of topsoil by the proposed project to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-2 – EROSION CONTROL
• Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used in all areas to control soil and surface water runoff during trenching and grading activities. Grading and excavation activities should not be planned during the rainy season (October 31 to May 1), but if storms are anticipated during construction or if construction must occur during winter months, "winterizing" will occur, including the covering (tarping) of any stockpiled soils and the use of temporary erosion control methods to protect disturbed soil. Temporary erosion control measures (BMPs) must be used during all soil-disturbing activities and until all disturbed soil has been stabilized (recompacted, revegetated, etc.) These BMPs will include, but not be limited to, the use of silt fences, straw bales, or straw or rice coir rolls, to prevent soil loss and siltation into nearby water bodies. • Permanent BMPs for erosion control will consist of properly compacting disturbed areas and revegetation of appropriate disturbed soil areas with native species using seed collected locally. Final design plans will incorporate BMP measures to be incorporated into the project. •

c) The project is not located within a geologic unit or on soil that is known to be unstable, based upon available data. As discussed in Discussion a) iii) above, a high potential for liquefaction may exist at the project location. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 above will reduce this risk to less than significant.

d) The project site is not underlain by expansive soils. The site soils are sands to loamy sands (Baywood fine sand) with low shrink-swell potential (USDA, 1977). There will be no impact from this project.

e) The project does not involve the installation of a septic system or leach field. The connection point to the City of Morro Bay's municipal sewer system will be unchanged. Therefore, there will be no impact to onsite soils from this project.

f) No known unique paleontological resource exists within the project site. Therefore, there is no impact.

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VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site, within the boundaries of Morro Bay State Park, is located within the city limits of Morro Bay. The campground area was part of the James H. White homestead, was later leased for agricultural purposes, and in 1928 became part of the Cabrillo County Club (golf course and campground). Morro Bay became a state park in 1934 and the campground area was the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. The CCC camp was used by the military (Army, Navy, and Coast Guard) during World War II (DPR, 1988). Most of the military buildings were torn down in 1949. There has been no industrial use or construction of buildings on the parcel that could have been a source of hazardous materials. There is no known hazardous contamination and the site is not suspected of containing any hazardous wastes, debris, or soil contamination.

The project site is not located within an airport land use zone, or within two miles of an airport. The nearest airport is the San Luis Obispo County Airport (McChesney Field), located approximately 15 miles to the southeast in San Luis Obispo. There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the park.

There are no schools within one-quarter mile of the project. (There are four schools located within approximately a two-mile radius of the project: Morro Elementary, Morro Bay High School, Baywood Elementary, and Los Osos Jr. High.)

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would	☐	☐	☐	☒

the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☒	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

a,b) Construction activities will require the use of certain potentially hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, or other fluids associated with the operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. These materials are generally contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Large quantities of these materials will not be stored at or transported to the construction site. Spills, upsets, or other construction-related accidents could result in a release of fuel or other hazardous substances into the environment.

The directional drilling rig will use bentonite drilling fluid, potentially hazardous to aquatic organisms if released to nearby surface water bodies. The drilling entrance and exit holes are potential places for drilling fluid loss to occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires that the contractor prepare a spill prevention and response plan prior to the start of construction, and to take other measures to protect waterways. Mitigation Measure BIO-2, combined with the following Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-1, would reduce the potential for adverse impacts from spill incidents to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-1

- All equipment will be inspected by the contractor for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.
- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- The directional drilling rig operator is responsible for detecting and controlling drilling fluid seepage. Evidence of drilling fluid seepage includes: visual evidence on the ground surface; loss of circulation (beyond the expected normal amount lost to the formation); and resultant loss of pressure. The drilling contractor shall have sufficient materials on hand to contain any spills. These materials may include straw bales, silt fences, or straw/rice wattles (coir rolls). The drill rig should have a reservoir to contain the bentonite mud.

c) As noted in the Environmental Setting, there are no schools in the general vicinity of the project or within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site. Therefore, there will be no impact from this project.

d) No part of Morro Bay State Park, including the project site, is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5. No area within the project site is currently restricted or known to have hazardous materials present. Therefore, no impact would occur with project development.

e,f) Morro Bay State Park is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a private air strip. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of this project.

g) All construction activities associated with the proposed project would occur within the boundaries of Morro Bay State Park and work would not restrict access to, cause delays, or block any public road outside the immediate construction area. The Morro Bay campground will remain open during construction and access routes, while possibly reduced to one lane, will remain open. Therefore, the impact of this project would be less than significant.

h) Most of the project work locations are within the existing paved campground roads. There are not significant amounts of grasses that may become flammable during the dry season (June-October). Even during the dry season, the coastal fog keeps the fire danger low. Fires could occur under certain conditions when dry offshore winds are present. Heavy equipment can get very hot with extended use; this equipment would sometimes be in close proximity to this vegetation. Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts and/or rocks could generate sparks, resulting in a fire. Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-2 below, would reduce the potential for adverse construction impacts from this project to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-2 CONSTRUCTION FIRE MANAGEMENT

- A fire safety plan will be developed by the contractor and approved by DPR prior to the start of construction.
- Spark arrestors or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers will be required for all heavy equipment.
- Construction crews will be required to park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, heavy equipment will be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.
- Park staff will be required to have a State Park radio on site, which allows direct contact to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.
- Fire suppression equipment will also be available and located on park grounds.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Watershed

Morro Bay State Park (Park) is located within the San Luis Obispo Hydrologic Unit of the Central Coast Hydrologic Region (DWR, 2003). The Park is located within the Chorro and Los Osos Hydrologic Subareas (DPR, 1988). The project site would drain either to Chorro Creek and the Morro Bay Estuary or directly to Morro Bay (see Appendix A, Figure 1). The watershed of Morro Bay is approximately 48,450 acres (76 square miles), of which Chorro Creek drains approximately 27,670 acres (43 square miles) (Coastal San Luis RCD, 2003).

Flooding

The campground project area is designated as Zone B on the FEMA floodplain map. The description for Zone B that would apply to the project site is: *"Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and the 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one foot."*

Water Quality

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) regulates water quality in the region and provides water quality standards and management criteria as required by the Clean Water Act. These standards and criteria are presented in the 1994 Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Coast Basin (CCRWQCB, 1994). The Basin Plan identifies the beneficial uses and water quality objectives for the Central Coast region. The two surface water bodies adjacent to the project site are Chorro Creek and the Morro Bay Estuary. Beneficial uses are listed in the following table:

Beneficial Use	Chorro Creek	Morro Bay Estuary
Municipal and Domestic Supply	X	
Agricultural Supply	X	
Industrial Service Supply		X
Groundwater Recharge	X	
Water Contact Recreation	X	X
Non-Contact Water Recreation	X	X
Wildlife Habitat	X	X
Cold Fresh Water Habitat	X	X
Warm Fresh Water Habitat	X	
Migration of Aquatic Organisms	X	X
Spawning, Reproduction and/or Early Development for Fish	X	X
Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance	X	X
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	X	X
Estuarine Habitat		X
Freshwater Replenishment	X	
Commercial and Sport Fishing	X	X
Aquaculture or Mariculture		X
Shellfish Harvesting		X

The Morro Bay watershed and estuary have been impacted by pollutants such as sediment, bacteria, metals, and nutrients (CCRWQCB, 2003) and has been designated as an impaired waterbody by the CCRWQCB (1994). This project will be conducted using Best Management Practices to prevent any additional impacts to the watershed, and the sewage system upgrades will provide a better level of water quality protection.

Water Supply

Currently, water for the Park is supplied by the City. The sources for this water are the State water project, groundwater wells, and water from the City's desalination plant (EDAW, 2001).

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒

j)	Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) During the grading, excavation, trenching, and dewatering operations, a release of sediment to surface waters and to Morro Bay could occur. Directional drilling equipment utilizes bentonite drilling fluid, which could be harmful to aquatic resources if accidentally released. Potential releases of raw sewage could occur from the existing septic system during construction and conversion to the new system. The campground will not be closed during construction, so the sewage system will continue to operate. Sewage will either be pumped daily or will be rerouted around the construction areas.

Other impacts to water quality could result from releases of fuels or other fluids from vehicles and equipment during the construction process. These activities could result in a violation of water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 will control releases of pollutants in storm (or other) water runoff. A plan to prevent, contain, and clean up any spills (Spill Prevention and Response Plan) will be used to mitigate any impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE HYDRO-1 – WATER QUALITY

- Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-2 will provide Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and runoff during the project construction and postconstruction. Groundwater extracted during dewatering of the lift station excavation will be filtered or allowed to settle to remove fines before discharge to the ground surface or nearest storm drain inlet, or water body in compliance with the waste discharge requirements of the CCRWQCB General Permit for Discharges with Low Threat To Water Quality (Order No. 01-119). Alternatively, the extracted groundwater may be directed to the sanitary sewer for disposal at the City of Morro Bay WWTP in compliance with City requirements. The State's contractor will submit to DPR for approval applicable BMP(s) to manage the water. These BMPs may consist of, but not be limited to: desilting basins (permanent or temporary), sediment traps, silt fences, fiber (coir) rolls, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, straw bale barriers, or storm drain inlet protection devices. The proper use and installation of these devices shall follow the Caltrans Stormwater Handbooks (Caltrans, 2003).
- The State's contractor will provide a spill prevention and response plan as part of the construction contract. This plan will discuss the engineering controls to eliminate any sewage releases during the conversion process. The plan will also discuss emergency cleanup procedures in the event that a sewage spill occurs.
- The project would comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and implemented by the State's contractor. Disposition of the groundwater extracted during dewatering of the lift station excavation will be included in the plan.
- Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-1 will mitigate for impacts to water quality from possible pollutants (fuels and other vehicle fluids released

from vehicles and heavy equipment during construction and any bentonite drilling fluids released during directional drilling).

b) The project will not involve any increase in water use and will not deplete any local aquifer. Water for the Park is currently supplied by the City of Morro Bay from sources described in the Environmental Setting section above. No impact.

c) No existing drainages will be altered by this project. Any siltation impacts will be less than significant.

d) The drainage pattern will not be altered in a manner that would significantly increase the rate or amount of surface runoff that would result in on- or offsite flooding. There should be no impact from this project.

e) This project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. No substantial additional sources of polluted runoff are expected from this project, provided soil erosion BMPs are followed, and a Spill Prevention and Response Plan is in place for sewage spills, bentonite fluid releases, and vehicle fluid spills. Implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1 will reduce this impact to less than significant.

f) This project has the potential to substantially degrade water quality if BMPs to control soil erosion and runoff or release of vehicle or equipment fluids, release of raw sewage, or bentonite drilling fluids, are not in place during construction. If Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 listed above is implemented, then no substantial degradation of water quality will occur.

g) This project is located within a FEMA-designated floodplain area. However, the project does not involve any housing. Therefore, there is no impact from this project.

h) This project will not place structures that could impede or redirect flood flows within any FEMA-designated 100-year flood plain. Therefore, there is no impact from this project.

i) The project would not expose people or structures to an increased significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam. The potential for flooding, as described on the FEMA floodplain maps, is an existing condition. Therefore, there is no impact from this project.

j) The project is not located in an area that would be severely inundated by either a seiche or a tsunami. The 1964 Alaska Earthquake (Good Friday Earthquake) reportedly caused a ten-foot tide change at Morro Bay (Minerals Management Service, 2001). Previous studies have predicted that a maximum tsunami wave "runup" of approximately 9.5 feet above sea level for a 100-year event could occur in San Luis Obispo County (City of Morro Bay, 2003). Specific runup elevations for Morro Bay are not known.

However, this project will not expose the public or property to an increased risk since this is an existing condition. While landslides and possible mudflows have occurred in the steeper areas of the Park, no mudflows are expected to occur at the project site due to the low relief topography. Therefore, there is no risk from this project.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP lies along the shoreline of Morro Bay, in the City of Morro Bay (City). The park consists of two noncontiguous parcels—the Morro Rock Natural Preserve and the main park—totaling approximately 2,700 acres. The main park is generally bounded by urban areas of the City of Morro Bay to the north, the community of Baywood Park to the south, undeveloped open space to the east, and Morro Bay to the west. Morro Bay SP is developed for a variety of recreational uses. The park includes overnight campsites, picnic areas, a campfire center, trails, restrooms, a sewage sanitation station, and park administration facilities (entrance station, maintenance yards, state park employee residences). A full-service marina consists of boat slips, an informal boat launch area, a residence/service area, a restroom, a parking lot, campsites, and a privately run café/snack bar. The Museum of Natural History is located north of the marina at Windy Cove and provides visitors with interpretive facilities and displays. North of the campground area is an 18-hole public golf course operated by San Luis Obispo County.

Morro Bay State Park is located entirely within the coastal zone and is subject to the provisions of the 2003 City of Morro Bay/Coastal Land Use Plan, which serves as part of the local coastal program pursuant to the California Coastal Act. Portions of the park located south of Lower State Park Road fall within the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) jurisdiction and development in this area is subject to coastal development permit requirements of the CCC.

According to the City of Morro Bay/Coastal Land Use Plan, Morro Bay SP has two land use designations in different areas of the park: Open Space/Recreation and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat. The Open Space/Recreation designation includes that open space which is not defined as environmentally sensitive habitat and is intended to accommodate more intensive recreational activities. Allowable uses include golf courses, boating clubs, athletic fields, stables, campgrounds, and other commercial recreation uses. The Environmentally Sensitive Habitat designation is assigned to those areas in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments. Allowable uses within this land use designation include resource-dependent activities such as fishing, clamming, hiking, and viewshed enjoyment.

DPR developed a General Plan for Morro Bay SP in 1988 to facilitate long-range planning at the park and to establish guidelines for the long-term use, management, and development of Morro Bay SP.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project would repair and rehabilitate existing sewer infrastructure facilities that service existing recreational land uses within the park. The proposed project would not introduce a new land use nor substantially alter existing land uses. The project would be located entirely within the boundaries of Morro Bay SP and would not divide an established community because none exists within the boundaries of the park. No impact.

b) This project is consistent with all applicable state and local land use plans, policies, and regulations. Work proposed for this project is in compliance with the Morro Bay SP General Plan and, with certification of this Mitigated Negative Declaration and implementation of the mitigation measures herein, would be in compliance with CEQA. No impact.

c) There is no habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan that includes this California State Park unit. Therefore, no impact.

X. MINERALS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

No significant mineral resources have been identified within the boundaries of the project area at Morro Bay State Park. Mineral resource extraction is not permitted under the Resource Management Directives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource because no known mineral resources exist within the project boundary. No impact.

b) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site because none exist within the project boundary. No impact.

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XI. NOISE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is located along the shoreline of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. The bay is located to the west, and undeveloped open space lies to the east. To the north of the park is the City of Morro Bay, and the community of Baywood Park is to the south.

The City of Morro Bay has adopted a noise control ordinance (9.28.030) that prohibits unnecessary, excessive, and offensive noise. The noise ordinance limits noise-generating construction activities that would have an effect on public health and safety to between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Construction activities may be allowed to occur during the otherwise prohibited hours, based on a determination by the City building inspector, provided that the resultant noise levels would pose no threat to public health and safety. The ordinance specifically prohibits the use of pile drivers and hammers between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. (9.28.030 K.).

The existing noise environment in the project area is primarily influenced by the noise produced from vehicles traveling on area roadways. Other noise sources in the area, including general recreational activities and occasional aircraft overflights, have a minor contribution to existing ambient noise levels. There are no known private airstrips in the vicinity, and the closest airport is San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, south of San Luis Obispo, more than 15 miles from the project site.

The 2001 environmental impact report prepared for the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project at the park included a traffic analysis and modeling of the traffic noise levels in the area. Based on the modeling conducted, the existing day-night traffic noise levels along the roadways adjacent to the proposed project area, including Lower State Park Road and Upper State Park Road, average less than 60 dBA (A-weighted decibels) CNEL (community noise equivalent level). For comparison, this is equivalent to the normal range of speech. The existing traffic noise levels are shown in Table XI-1 below.

Table XI-1. Existing Traffic Noise

Roadway Segment	Distance from Roadway Centerline to 60 dBA CNEL Noise Contour (feet)	Noise Level at 50 Feet from Centerline of Near Travel Lane (dBA CNEL)
Lower State Park Road (road lies within project area)	<50	56.20
Upper State Park Road (road intersects project area)	<50	57.54

Source: EDAW, 2001. Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Morro Bay State Park Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Heavy equipment, including an excavator, backhoe, chain trencher, and directional bore crawler, along with vehicle and delivery traffic, would operate during construction. Construction noise levels at and near the project area would fluctuate, depending on the type and number of construction equipment operating at any given time. Depending on the specific construction activities being performed, short-term increases in ambient noise levels could result in speech interference near the project site and annoyance to visitors. As a result, construction-generated noise would be considered to have a potentially significant short-term impact to nearby noise-sensitive receptors. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce those potential impacts to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE-1

- Construction activities would generally be limited to daylight hours, between 7 am and 7 pm. Work on weekends and holidays would not begin prior to 8 am.
- Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site would be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction would utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.
- Stationary noise sources and staging areas would be located as far from sensitive receptors as possible. If they must be located near such receptors, stationary noise sources would be enclosed in temporary sheds or muffled to the extent feasible.

Construction is expected to take approximately 120 days to complete. Once the construction is complete, there is no increase in noise expected. Less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1.

b) Construction activity would include the use of a sheet pile driver. A vibratory hammer will be used because it emits less noise than a conventional hammer. In order to comply with the City of Morro Bay noise ordinance, the hours of operation will be limited, as included below in Mitigation Measure Noise-2. Further, use of the sheet pile driver will be of temporary duration, approximately two to four days. Due to this temporary nature and the implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-2, groundborne vibration or noise generated by the project would have a less than significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE-2

- The use of a sheet pile driver will be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in compliance with the City of Morro Bay noise ordinance.

c) Once the proposed project is completed, all related construction noise would disappear. Nothing within the scope of the proposed project would result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Therefore, no significant impact to permanent ambient noise levels would be anticipated.

d) See Discussion XI (a, c) above. Less than significant impact with implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1.

e) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, the nearest airport is more than 15 miles away. No impact.

f) The proposed project site is not located in the vicinity of a known private airstrip. No impact.

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XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP is located on the edge of Morro Bay. It is bounded by the bay to the west, the City of Morro Bay to the north, open space to the east, and the community of Baywood Park to the south. Housing within the park boundaries is limited and restricted to approximately five State Park employee residences. As a recreational facility, the development of permanent housing is not a planned use of the park. The permanent population of the park is relatively static, based on DPR staffing requirements, and no significant growth is anticipated in the foreseeable future. The park is both a local recreational resource and a destination park, used by locals and out-of-town visitors alike, but does not offer residential opportunities within its boundaries.

As described in the environmental impact report for the proposed Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project at Morro Bay SP (EDAW, 2001), the existing sewage capacity is more than adequate for any increases in wastewater that would result from the implementation of that project. The work on the sewer system that is proposed under this project will not increase the capacity of the system.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a,b,c) The project does not have a housing component and all work would take place within the confines of the park boundaries. The proposed project would repair and upgrade existing sewer infrastructure that serves the campground area and employee housing within the park. The project would not result in any changes or additions to infrastructure facilities outside of the park, and will not increase the capacity of infrastructure inside the park. The project would neither modify nor displace any existing housing and would displace no one, either temporarily or

permanently. Therefore, the project would have no impact on population growth or housing.

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XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP is located along the shoreline of Morro Bay and is generally bounded by the City of Morro Bay to the north, the community of Baywood Park to the south, undeveloped open space to the east, and Morro Bay to the west. DPR provides law enforcement services and a minimum level of fire protection services within units of the State Park System. State Park Rangers with law enforcement authority patrol the park boundaries, police public use of the campsites, enforce the public resource code, and guard against misuse of park property and resources. Morro Bay SP is located within the service area of the City of Morro Bay Fire Department, which acts as the first responder to fire emergencies in the park. There are no schools within or adjacent to the park unit, but four schools exist within two miles of the park, including Morro Elementary School, Morro Bay High School, Baywood Elementary, and Los Osos Jr. High.

There are several other parks located in the surrounding area, including Montana de Oro State Park, Bayshore Bluffs Park, Tidelands Park, Mariner Park, Centennial Park, Morro Rock Park Area, and Coleman Park to the west and northwest; and Morro Bay City Park, Monte Young Park, and Anchor Park to the north.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☒	☐
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed sewer infrastructure improvement project would not result in an increase of visitation to the park and the level of required fire or police services would not change as a result of the project. However, use of construction equipment around potentially flammable vegetation presents an increased fire risk that could result in temporary additional demand on local fire response services. Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-2, combined with the availability of

onsite fire suppression equipment and support from State Park Rangers, would reduce the potential impact to fire protection services to a less than significant level.

The project does not result in any change of use or introduce any new use at the park that would effect existing schools or require additional schools or school personnel. No impact.

The proposed project would improve sewer infrastructure facilities that support the existing recreational services at the park. No recreational facilities within Morro Bay SP would be closed or reduced in capacity as a result of this project. The project would occur entirely within the boundaries of Morro Bay SP. Therefore, the project would have no adverse impact on park facilities or other parks in the area.

The proposed project would have no impact on other public services.

XIV. RECREATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP lies along the shoreline of Morro Bay and is generally bounded by the City of Morro Bay to the north, the community of Baywood Park to the south, undeveloped open space to the east, and Morro Bay to the west. Morro Bay SP is the largest coastal park in the Morro Bay area, encompassing approximately 2,102 acres and 39,515 linear feet of bay frontage. With its close proximity to the coast and abundant scenic, natural, and cultural resources, Morro Bay SP is a popular year-round destination. The peak period of visitor use is May through September. Historically the park has attracted an average of over 1,000,000 day-use visitors and approximately 110,000 overnight visitors per year. However, day-use visitation was reduced during the 2001-2003 seasons due to the closure of the park's Museum of Natural History for renovations from December 2001 through July 2002. Visitation is expected to return to historical levels now that the Museum has been reopened. See Chapter 2, Section 2.7 for recent visitation statistics.

Morro Bay SP is sited in a wooded setting and provides a variety of visitor recreational opportunities including: overnight camping facilities, picnic and day-use areas, public marina, golf course, natural history museum, and several miles of nature trails for hiking and walking. A pristine saltwater marsh is located on the bay's northeast edge and provides high quality habitat and is a popular area for bird-watching. The marina located southwest of the campground serves both the local and regional community and provides opportunities for sailing and fishing. The marina area consists of boat slips, an informal boat launch area, residence/service area, restroom, parking lot, en route (vehicle) campsites, and privately run café/snack bar. The Museum of Natural History is located north of the marina at Windy Cove and serves to educate visitors about the region's resources through interpretive facilities and exhibits. The 18-hole golf course is located directly north of the campground area and is operated by San Luis Obispo County.

DPR has recently planned an extensive campground rehabilitation project at the park, consistent with the long-term use, management, and development goals set forth in the unit's General Plan (approved in 1988). The Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project will improve the functionality of recreational facilities at the park and expand day-use facilities. (More information on the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project can be found in the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the project – EDAW, 2001).

There are several other recreation resources that are outside of, but in the immediate vicinity of, the project site including; Montana de Oro State Park, Bayshore Bluffs Park, Tidelands Park, Mariner Park, Centennial Park, Morro Rock Park Area, and Coleman Park to the west and northwest; and Morro Bay City Park, Monte Young Park, Morro Bay Community Center, and Anchor Park to the north.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a,b) The proposed project would upgrade the existing sewer infrastructure that serves the recreational facilities at the park by replacing two 40-year-old sewer pump stations and repairing sewer force mains and gravity mains. The infrastructure improvements would not increase the capacity of the existing sewer system in a manner that would result in increased levels of use of recreational facilities at the park or surrounding areas. The sewer infrastructure improvement project would be constructed in conjunction with the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project (described above in the Environmental Setting), if possible. The proposed project would be conducted outside of the peak visitor season to avoid impacts to park users to the extent feasible. The proposed project will take approximately 120 days to complete and the campground will remain open and available for public use during construction. The sewer system upgrade and pump station replacement would not increase visitation demands on this or any other park or recreational facility in the area, displace any existing recreational facilities, or result in the need for the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. No impact.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located in Morro Bay SP in the county of San Luis Obispo. The park is bounded on the west by the bay, to the north by the City of Morro Bay, to the east by undeveloped open space, and to the south by the community of Baywood Park. The project area runs along Lower State Park Road from its western intersection with Upper State Park Road to near the campground entrance station.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Regional access to the project site is via State Route 1 (Highway 1), a major four-lane highway on a northwest-southeast alignment through the City of Morro Bay. Highway 1 is designated as a State Scenic Highway, from the San Luis Obispo city limits south of the park to State Route 68 in Monterey County, north of the park.

Vehicular access points to the park include South Bay Boulevard to the north of the park near Highway 1, Main Street (Lower State Park Road) near the Upper State Park Road western intersection, local feeder streets Kern Avenue and Piney Way, and South Bay Boulevard from the south from Baywood Park (see Appendix A, Figure 2).

Within the project vicinity, Upper State Park Road is a two-lane, undivided, east-west roadway that passes through Morro Bay SP and has no centerline, shoulders, or sidewalks. It also provides access to the golf course. Lower State Park Road originates as Main Street, a two-lane undivided main arterial that runs through the City of Morro Bay. Main Street and Highway 1 have the highest levels of traffic in the community of Morro Bay (Crawford et al., 2002). Within the park, Main Street is known as Lower State Park Road and has no shoulders or sidewalks. It provides direct access to the campground entrance, day use areas, the Museum of Natural History, and the marina. Kern Avenue and Piney Way are local streets in the City of Morro Bay that also feed into the park at this entrance.

The 2001 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project included an analysis of traffic conditions at several intersections, including: Lower State Park Road/South Bay Boulevard, Upper State Park Road/Lower State Park Road (eastern intersection), Kern/Main, and Main/Piney. Table XV-1 below shows the peak hour volumes for these intersections as determined by the traffic analysis conducted for the DEIR.

Table XV-1. Peak Hour Traffic Volumes

Intersection	Street/Direction of Travel	PM Peak Hour Volume	Saturday Peak Hour Volume
Lower State Park Rd. (LSPR)/South Bay Blvd. (SBB)	LSPR left onto SBB	35	36
	LSPR right onto SBB	142	226
	SBB northbound (nb), left onto LSPR	145	242
	SBB nb, straight	508	697
	SBB southbound (sb), right onto LSPR	32	75
	SBB sb, straight	833	596
Upper State Park Rd. (USPR)/LSPR, eastern intersection	USPR left onto LSPR	60	83
	USPR right onto LSPR	0	0
	LSPR nb left onto USPR	5	2
	LSPR nb straight	118	246
	LSPR sb right onto USPR	90	111
	LSPR sb straight	88	181
Kern/Main	Kern eastbound (eb) left onto Main	0	3
	Kern eb straight	3	0
	Kern eb right onto Main	5	3
	Main nb left onto Kern	3	9
	Main nb straight	174	301
	Main nb right onto Kern	18	16
	Kern westbound (wb) left onto Main	15	39
	Kern wb straight	4	6
	Kern wb right onto Main	1	11
	Main sb left onto Kern	12	11
	Main sb straight	169	335
	Main sb right onto Kern	0	3
Main/Piney	Main eb left onto Piney	9	11
	Main eb straight	143	304
	Main wb right onto Piney	42	69
	Main wb straight	141	245
	Piney sb right onto Main	10	11
	Piney sb left onto Main	28	42

Source: EDAW, 2001, p. 4.6-2.

All of these intersections were determined to function at Level of Service (LOS) A, which corresponds to free flow traffic conditions with little or no delays (i.e., delays equal to or less than 5.0 seconds). The City of Morro Bay considers traffic impacts to be significant if they result in a downgrading of the Level of Service from acceptable (Levels of Service A through C) to unacceptable (Levels D and below) (EDAW, 2001, p. 4.6-5).

The DEIR determined that although the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project would cause a "slight" increase in traffic delays, the project would not result in any levels of service lower than LOS A.

Construction and staging activities for the proposed sewer infrastructure repair project will take place entirely within the park boundaries. Some lane or road closures might be necessary on Lower State Park Road during construction. However, the proposed project would not change the Level of Service of any of the intersections discussed above. In addition, no parking will change as a result of the project.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Public transit service within the city limits of Morro Bay comprises Dial-A-Ride, a door-to-door public transit system. Regionally, the Central Coast Area Transit (CCAT) and the Runabout provide public transportation. CCAT, operated by the Central Coast Transit Regional Joint Powers Authority, provides fixed route intercity service weekdays and on Saturdays on selected routes. The Runabout, operated by the San Luis Obispo County Area Transit Authority, is an ADA paratransit service.

Morro Bay Trolley Route #2 stops at the Museum of Natural History in the park. The trolley is a seasonal program operated by the City of Morro Bay that operates May through October, providing weekend-only service at the beginning and end of the summer season and 7-day-a-week service during the peak summer months.

The City of Morro Bay adheres to two transportation plans including; (1) the 2001 San Luis Obispo Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), prepared by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, of which the City is a member; and (2) the Short-Range Transportation Development Plan (TDP). The RTP calls for a regional transportation system with an emphasis on intermodal transport encompassing coordination of transportation plans and programs on a countywide level. The purpose of the TDP is to improve planning, operations, and management of public transit in Morro Bay by outlining a comprehensive guide to aid Morro Bay's decisions regarding public transit services for the next five years (Crawford et al., 2002).

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Bicyclists and pedestrians share Lower State Park Road with automobiles. The road does not have a shoulder or sidewalk.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the	☐	☒	☐	☐

number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a,b) All construction-related activities associated with the project would occur within Morro Bay SP. Construction vehicles would generally access the project site from either South Bay Boulevard (park entrance closest to Highway 1) or Main Street. The addition of 10-12 additional vehicles (e.g., crew pickups, delivery trucks, and equipment haulers) making 1-2 trips daily would not constitute a substantial increase in traffic volume for this road or result in significant additional congestion. Work crews and equipment would typically arrive or leave the site outside the normal periods of congestion. Work performed along Lower State Park Road could result in temporary slowing of traffic or increase in congestion within the park during periods of unusually heavy traffic; or when activities require encroachment into the areas immediately adjacent to the road surface. During certain periods of construction lane or road closures of Lower State Park Road might be required. However, alternate access to the park and facilities would be available via Upper State Park Road. The following mitigation measure would reduce any potential adverse impact to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE TRANS-1

- DPR or its contractors would provide traffic flaggers as necessary when construction is in progress to ensure public safety and a steady flow of traffic. If lane or road closures are necessary, alternate access will be maintained to and within the park.
- Every effort will be made to maintain full access for emergency vehicles and personnel at all times. If unable to maintain a pathway for emergency vehicles due to construction, alternate access will be maintained to and within the park.

- Activities resulting in extended traffic delays or encroachment onto public roads would be coordinated in advance with the City of Morro Bay Public Services Department.

c) The project site is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a private air strip, and does not serve as a normal reporting point for air traffic in the area. Nothing in the proposed project would in any way affect or change existing air traffic patterns in the area. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of this project.

d) No portion of the project design or implementation contains any element that would increase hazards to traffic or other forms of transportation. No impact.

e) All construction activities associated with the project would occur within the boundaries of Morro Bay SP (see Discussion XV (a, b) above). Most areas within the park would remain open to the public during construction, although areas of the site under active construction would be restricted to authorized personnel only. As stipulated in Mitigation Measure TRANS-1, every effort will be made to maintain full access for emergency vehicles and personnel at all times. If unable to maintain a pathway for emergency vehicles due to construction, alternate access will be maintained to and within the park. Therefore, the impact of this project on emergency access and response would be less than significant.

f) This project is not expected to increase the number of visitors to the project area. It will not make any changes to existing parking areas. No impact.

g) This project will not result in any changes regarding alternative transportation. The project does not conflict with the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan or the transportation control measures in the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control Board 2001 Clean Air Plan. No impact.

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XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Morro Bay SP is an approximately 2,100-acre park located along the shoreline of Morro Bay within the City of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. Wastewater generated at Morro Bay SP is conveyed to the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at the southeast corner of Atascadero Road/Embarcadero Road. This plant serves both the unincorporated community of Cayucos and the City of Morro Bay. The City utilizes its own wastewater collection system to transport wastewater to the treatment plant. All wastewater from Morro Bay SP is pumped into the City's sewer system via a sewer lift station located near the marina, which pumps wastewater via a 4-inch pressure main along Lower State Park Road to a maintenance hole located near the park entrance at Kern Avenue and Main Street. From that point, the sewage flows by gravity to the pump station near the Duke Power Plant, is pumped west along Embarcadero Road, and then flows via gravity north on Embarcadero Road to the WWTP. The City of Morro Bay provides water to Morro Bay SP, primarily from state water and groundwater wells.

According to the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared for the Morro Bay SP Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project (2001), the WWTP has a service capacity of approximately 2.09 million gallons per day (mgd). Current wastewater discharge from the park is estimated to be 8,242 gallons per day (gpd). The planned Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project would result in an estimated increase in day use of the park by approximately 200 visitors per day, or 55,000 visitors per year, and approximately 90 overnight visitors per day (California Department of Finance 1998). The analysis prepared for the EIR estimated that the maximum increase in wastewater generation resulting from the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project would be approximately 1,940 gpd. The existing wastewater treatment plant currently has an excess capacity of approximately 200,000 gpd. Therefore, as the increased demand would be less than one percent of the treatment plant's excess capacity, the WWTP has sufficient capacity to accommodate the increase in wastewater generation. DPR and the City have agreements regarding the treatment of wastewater generated by the park. The 1961 agreement states that the City agrees to accept the park's sewage and does not specify a volume limit. The proposed project would repair the existing force main and gravity lines and replace two sewer lift stations that provide sewer service to the campground and employee housing areas of the park.

Electricity to the park is provided by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The proposed project would require installing a new electrical connection between the existing entrance station and the eastern lift station to be relocated (from the edge of the salt marsh to a site approximately 150 feet to the northwest). Other electrical work may be required if it is determined during construction that existing cables are damaged and in need of repair.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:					
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Morro Bay SP is within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWCB; Region 3). The proposed project would repair and rehabilitate existing sewer infrastructure that services the park. The project would not result in a change to the service capacity of the existing sewer system, or result in an increased demand for water or sewer services. The project involves excavating open trenches to repair gravity lines and force mains, and to remove and replace the lift station located near the salt marsh. Directional boring may also be used. The project would involve approximately two acres of ground disturbance from excavation, materials staging, and soil stockpiling associated with project construction. The project is subject to the requirements of the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit, 99-08-DWQ). DPR will file a Notice of Intent to obtain coverage under the General Permit. DPR's contractor will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to construction, as required by the General Permit.

The SWPPP will incorporate Best Management Practices to ensure the protection of storm water runoff from erosion and sedimentation. All aspects of the project would be in compliance with CCRWQCB regulations and standards. (See Mitigation Measure HAZMAT -1 regarding mitigation of potential impacts from accidents, spills, or upset.) No impact.

b) The proposed project would repair and rehabilitate existing sewer infrastructure including gravity lines and force mains, and replace two existing lift stations, all of which service existing uses at the park. The project does not involve the construction of any new water or wastewater treatment facilities, or the expansion of existing facilities. No impact.

c) As discussed in Section (a) above, the project would disturb approximately two acres of soil from excavation, staging, and stockpiling activities during construction. Some temporary alteration of existing drainage patterns may occur along the alignment of the pipeline to be repaired and around the lift station to be removed and replaced in a different location. However, the project would not result in topographical changes or new impervious surfaces and therefore would not result in any permanent change to drainage patterns. All excavated soil will be replaced and disturbed areas will be vegetated with native plant cover following construction. In addition, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared prior to construction to ensure the protection of stormwater runoff and to minimize erosion and sedimentation. The project would not result in the expansion of existing stormwater facilities or the construction of new facilities. No impact.

d) The City of Morro Bay provides water to Morro Bay SP from the City's state water allocations and underground wells. The proposed project does not require any new entitlements for water. Current water supplies are adequate to meet existing demands and the proposed project would not increase water demands, or result in the need for new water resources or facilities. No impact.

e) All of the wastewater from Morro Bay SP is pumped into the City's sewer collection system via pump stations located within the park. The proposed project would replace two pump stations (and relocate the eastern pump station) and repair existing gravity lines and force mains. The project would not change the flow rate at which wastewater is pumped into the City's collection system, or alter the service capacity of the existing infrastructure. No new or expanded sewer lines or pump stations would be needed. DPR and the City of Morro Bay have an agreement, which has been in place since 1961, stating that the City agrees to accept the Park's sewage. The proposed project would not change the demand on the City's water treatment system and therefore, would not have any effect on the agreement between the City and DPR. No impact.

f-g) The proposed project involves excavation of earthen material along the alignment of the sewer lines to be repaired and around the area of the pump stations to be removed and replaced. The excavated soil would be replaced following construction and any excess soil material and construction debris will be disposed of consistent with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate

to solid waste. The project would not generate additional solid waste within the park beyond existing levels. Therefore, work would not impact the park's existing or projected solid waste disposal needs. No impact.

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CHAPTER 4
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?)	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the natural environment. It has been determined that the project would have the potential to:

- Degrade the quality of the environment (diesel PM, soil erosion, water quality, noise);
- Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community (northern coastal salt marsh, central coastal sage scrub)
- Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal (California sea-blite, Coulter's goldfields, salt marsh bird's-beak, black legless lizard, California red-legged frog, monarch butterfly, morro shoulderband snail, Cooper's hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, osprey, California black rail, large-billed savannah sparrow);

However, full implementation of all mitigation measures incorporated into this project would avoid or reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level.

b) The proposed project site was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the cultural resources of Morro Bay SB. It has been determined that some of the ground-disturbing activities proposed by the project could inadvertently expose and significantly impact previously unrecorded prehistoric or historic features or archaeological resources. However, full implementation of all mitigation measures incorporated into this project would reduce those impacts, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.

c) DPR often has other smaller maintenance programs and projects planned for a park unit. However, no known maintenance projects would contribute to direct or indirect impacts associated with this project.

In addition to regular maintainance projects, DPR has planned the Campground Rehabilitation and Day Use Area Project. However, impacts from environmental issues addressed in this evaluation do not overlap with these additional projects in such a way as to result in cumulative impacts that are greater than the sum of the parts or that result in a significant adverse impact that cannot be mitigated. Full implementation of all mitigation measures associated with this and other projects would reduce any potential impact, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.

However, impacts from environmental issues addressed in this evaluation do not overlap with these additional projects in such a way as to result in cumulative impacts that are greater than the sum of the parts or that result in a significant adverse impact that cannot be mitigated. Full implementation of all mitigation measures associated with this and other projects would reduce any potential impact, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level (see also EDAW, 2001).

d) Most project-related environmental effects have been determined to pose a less than significant impact on humans. However, possible impacts from construction emissions (Air Quality), construction accidents and fire and hazardous materials (Hazards and Hazardous Wastes), earthquake and unstable soils (Geology and Soils), noise, and transportation, have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on humans, although many of these would be temporary. These potentially significant adverse impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level if all mitigation measures incorporated into this project are fully implemented.

CHAPTER 5
SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Sewer System Improvements Project.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-1 APCD STANDARD CONSTRUCTION MITIGATIONS

- DPR and its contractor(s) will properly maintain all construction equipment, according to manufacturer's specifications.
- All off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, auxiliary power units, will be fueled with ARB-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road).
- The use of diesel construction equipment meeting the ARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines will be maximized to the extent feasible.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-2 APCD DISCRETIONARY MITIGATIONS

- Electrical and/or gasoline-powered equipment or equipment using alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, or biodiesel, will be substituted for diesel-powered equipment, where feasible.
- Equipment that has Caterpillar pre-chamber diesel engines will be given priority usage.
- A comprehensive construction activity management plan will be developed and implemented to minimize the amount of large construction equipment operating during any given time period, schedule truck trips to reduce peak hour use, determine optimum construction work periods, and phase construction to reduce concentrated periods of emissions.

MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-3 DIESEL PM

- DPR and/or its contractor(s) will implement mitigations to reduce diesel PM that are determined as a result of consultation with APCD.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1 SENSITIVE PLANT PROTECTION

- Prior to the start of construction, surveys would be conducted at the appropriate blooming months in the proposed project area. For California sea-blite, surveys may be conducted at any time of year. For salt marsh bird's-beak, surveys would be conducted in July–August. Any occurrence of these species would be mapped and flagged onsite prior to the construction period by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. These sites would be avoided and protected by orange plastic-mesh safety fencing during the construction period, with a buffer of at least 25 feet surrounding the sensitive plant population.
- The USFWS would be consulted for guidelines for protection and conservation of California sea-blite. Construction activities will follow avoidance and mitigation measures provided by the USFWS.
- Erosion control measures would be in place to protect sensitive plant species and salt marsh habitat. (See Mitigation Measure BIO-8.) The known California sea-blite occurrence near the lift station removal site would be protected from sedimentation by these erosion control measures.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2 GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION

- A DPR-approved biologist would conduct a training session for all project personnel prior to the start of construction. Instruction will cover identification of sensitive species and their habitat, and the specific measures required to protect and avoid sensitive wildlife and habitats. Training will address general conservation measures, proper disposal of and covering of trash and construction debris, and proper response to fluid spills. Training will also address measures to identify, conserve, and protect sensitive species if any are found at the construction site, and the appropriate response to observation of any sensitive species. The training will be completed prior to authorizing personnel to work in the project area.
- A DPR-approved biologist (Biological monitor) would conduct visual surveys of the project site each day prior to the start of construction activity, to ensure that no sensitive wildlife species are found within the construction zone. If sensitive wildlife species are found within the construction boundaries, they will be temporarily relocated by a DPR-approved biologist (or USFWS-permitted biologist) as necessary. Construction activities may be temporarily modified to maintain a safe distance from sensitive wildlife until the animal is temporarily relocated. If a listed threatened or endangered species is found, the biological monitor would have the authority to suspend or modify work in the area until the USFWS has approved an appropriate course of action. The monitor would notify appropriate DPR personnel and the USFWS immediately following any work stoppage. The biological monitor will communicate issues directly to the State's Representative.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2 GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION, CONT.

- Exclusion fencing would be installed at appropriate locations around work areas and around project excavation sites. A DPR-approved biologist would identify placement of fencing and the appropriate type. Orange plastic-mesh safety fencing with 4" mesh (to allow small wildlife passage) will be placed around general construction areas. All exclusion fencing used onsite would have minimum 4" mesh unless specified otherwise.
- A DPR-approved biologist would meet with the State's Representative and contractor to identify construction boundaries, staging areas, and access routes prior to the start of construction. These areas would be fenced with safety fencing or flagged if appropriate. All activity and equipment would be kept within designated staging and work areas, unless approved by the project resource ecologist.
- Project excavation sites (for sewer lift station tanks) would be covered at night and when no construction activity is occurring, by plastic or another DPR biologist-approved method . These excavations would be monitored daily by a DPR-qualified biologist. The walls of these holes would be maintained by sandbags or sheet pile as designated in Mitigation Measure BIO-9.
- The contractor will prepare a spill prevention and response plan prior to the start of construction, and maintain a spill kit onsite throughout the life of the project. This plan would include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. All fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 50 feet from any water source (wetlands, streams, ponds, seeps, springs, etc.) or riparian habitat. Fueling and maintenance would be conducted on pavement unless designated otherwise. Equipment washing would only occur within a designated, contained wash area. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form at the project site or within the boundaries of Morro Bay State Park during construction, the contractor would immediately notify the State Representative.
- Mature tree protection: Trenching activities would be conducted at a depth and location to avoid mature tree roots. If tree roots >3" diameter are encountered, the contractor will excavate by hand underneath tree roots. Alternatively, boring or trenching will go at least three feet deep to avoid mature tree roots. No mature trees are planned for removal as a result of this project. If an individual tree must be removed due to trenching activities, the DPR resource ecologist will determine an appropriate restoration. If any construction work is conducted immediately next to mature trees, these would be protected with safety fencing and/or certified weed-free straw bales.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3 CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG PROTECTION

- A survey would be conducted for CRLF near the project excavation sites between May and November.
- At least 7 days prior to the onset of activities, DPR would submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists who would conduct activities as Service-approved biologists to USFWS for approval.
- Immediately prior to the start of work each morning, a Service-approved biologist or DPR-qualified resource ecologist will conduct a visual survey of the construction zone, prior to the start of work. If California red-legged frogs are found, start of work at that project site would be delayed until the species moves on its own accord out of the project site, is protected, or is temporarily relocated by a USFWS-approved biologist. No handling or harassing of California red-legged frogs would occur.
- A Service-approved biologist or DPR-qualified resource ecologist will monitor all ground-disturbing activities in known or potential red-legged frog habitat. If a California red-legged frog is found within the work area, work will be temporarily halted or diverted while the USFWS-approved biological monitor relocates the frog to suitable habitat outside the project area.
- Before any construction activities begin on a project, a Service-approved biologist would conduct a training session for all construction and park personnel working within the project area. At a minimum, the training would include a description of the California red-legged frog and their habitats; the importance of the species' and their habitats; the general measures that would be implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog, as they relate to the project; and the physical boundaries within which the project would be accomplished. The training session would include instruction in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a California red-legged frog is found onsite. Brochures, books and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions. Handouts with photos of both species would be provided to construction personnel. (See also Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- All fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 50 feet from any water source (wetlands, streams, ponds, seeps, springs, etc.) or riparian habitat, as approved by the DPR resource ecologist. Fueling and maintenance would be conducted on pavement unless designated otherwise. The contractor will prepare a spill prevention and response plan prior to the start of construction, and maintain a spill kit onsite throughout the life of the project. Any equipment washing would only occur within a designated, contained wash area (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- Construction zones would be fenced with plastic 4"-mesh safety fencing to allow small wildlife passage. A DPR-qualified resource ecologist will determine fencing placement (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).
- Project excavations will be covered at night with plastic or another DPR biologist-approved method (see Mitigation Measure BIO-2).

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4 GENERAL PROTECTION MEASURES FOR NESTING BIRDS

- No trees would be removed during the nesting season. If any trees must be removed as a result of this project, this work would occur between September 1 (after young have fledged) and February 1 to protect nesting birds. If trees must be removed at other times of year, then preconstruction surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if there are nesting birds in a specific tree. If active nests are found, then no tree removal would occur within 500 feet of any tree with an active nest during this time period.
- If construction activities with significant noise levels (such as driving sheet pile) will occur during the nesting season, then the surrounding area would be surveyed for nests in a 500-foot radius from this site. Surveys would be conducted by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If nests are found, then these construction activities (causing significant noise levels) would not be conducted within 500 feet of an active nest during the nesting season, or until young have fledged.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5 SENSITIVE BIRD SPECIES

- California black rail: If construction activities will be initiated during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31) near the salt marsh, then surveys would be conducted in the salt marsh by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist, prior to construction. If California black rail nests are found within 500 feet of the salt marsh lift station site, then no construction activities would be conducted in this zone during this time period. This zone would be flagged and monitored by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If it is determined appropriate by CDFG, the buffer zone may be modified by the resource ecologist. No project operations would occur in this area until the young have left the nest.
- Large-billed savannah sparrows are known to winter in coastal sage scrub near the project site. Construction activities will be prohibited from working in coastal sage scrub habitat, with an additional 25-foot buffer, during winter months (November to March). If construction trenching will occur near coastal sage scrub during this time period, then this habitat would be flagged or fenced (safety fencing) by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist. If trenching work must occur during this time period in coastal sage scrub habitat, then a DPR-qualified resource ecologist would conduct a survey for the birds near the trenching site prior to construction. If determined appropriate, a DPR-qualified resource ecologist may modify this buffer if construction activity and bird behavior permit.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6 MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

- If construction work is to be conducted during the monarch butterfly wintering period (October to March), or in the unlikely event that removal of a tree or trees is required, a DPR-qualified biologist would inspect the site, prior to construction. If butterflies are present, construction activities will be limited from this site, with a 50' buffer zone. The DPR-qualified biologist may modify this buffer if appropriate, based on the type of construction activity occurring at the site.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7 MORRO SHOULDERBAND SNAIL

- Prior to the construction period, a USFWS-permitted biologist will complete surveys for the Morro shoulderband snail in the project zones.
- If shoulderband snails are found, the DPR resource ecologist would consult with USFWS to determine appropriate mitigation measures. DPR and its contractors will implement mitigations as required by USFWS, under the supervision of the project resource ecologist.
- If shoulderband snails are found in the project area after construction begins, work within the immediate vicinity of the find may be temporarily halted or diverted until a USFWS-approved course of action is determined and implemented.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-8 SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- A DPR-qualified resource ecologist will identify an appropriate buffer zone around the edge of the salt marsh and coastal sage scrub habitats adjacent to the existing lift station, prior to the start of any work in that area. Temporary protective fencing will be installed and all construction operations will be excluded from this area. Fencing will remain in place until all construction activities with the potential to impact the buffered areas are completed.
- Excavated soil will only be deposited at designated sites near the Lower State Park Road, outside of the salt marsh; disposal sites will be separated from the salt marsh by approved containment and erosion control methods (see below and Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and GEO-2).
- No trenching work will occur within coastal sage scrub habitat without prior approval of the project resource ecologist. Sensitive habitat areas along the trench line will be identified and flagged or fenced prior to the start of work. If trenching must occur in sensitive habitat, the project resource ecologist will map sensitive habitat and consult with contractor/State Representative to determine methods to avoid or reduce potential impacts. Work that could result in a potentially significant environmental impact that cannot be avoided or reduced to a less than significant level by mitigations proposed in this document will not be performed under this MND. Such actions will be evaluated separately and, if

proposed for implementation, will be addressed in an appropriate separate environmental document.

- Project sites in coastal sage scrub and coastal salt marsh would be restored to native habitat after construction activity is complete. Prior to construction, native plants would be salvaged from the construction site and transplanted post-construction if appropriate. Small patches of coastal sage scrub that are disturbed by trenching would be restored onsite post-construction. If coastal sage scrub habitat will be lost as a result of this project construction activity, the loss would be mitigated by restoration at a minimum 3:1 ratio within the campground. No noxious weeds will be introduced onsite. Iceplant currently occupying project sites would be replaced by appropriate native species of local genetic stock.
- A detailed restoration plan would be prepared and implemented for habitat replacement for salt marsh and coastal sage scrub communities by the DPR resource ecologist. The restoration plan may include the following: plant materials, weed control, and maintenance methods. The restoration plan would also outline a project timeline, success criteria and contingency actions, and a monitoring plan.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-9 WETLANDS

- A formal delineation of wetlands that would meet USACE and Coastal Commission criteria will be completed by a DPR-qualified resource ecologist prior to the start of construction.
- Wetlands that may be affected by construction activities will be protected by safety fencing. During construction, DPR-approved best management practices (BMPs) would be used to ensure that work does not result in increased erosion or siltation (see Mitigation Measures BIO-8 and HYDRO-1). Erosion control measures, such as weed-free straw bales or wattle barriers, and sediment traps and/or basins would be installed along the perimeter of the construction site and around areas where ditches or culverts could channel site runoff into nearby wetlands or sensitive biological communities.
- At the proposed lift station and tank removal near the salt marsh, wetland habitat will be restored onsite. Habitat restoration or replacement would be performed using methods acceptable to the CCC and the USACE. Wetland (coastal salt marsh) habitat restoration would be outlined in the restoration plan (see Mitigation Measure BIO-8).
- The sides of deep excavation holes in or near wetlands would be maintained by sandbags, sheet pile, or other approved method.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1

- An avoidance zone around the CCC stone steps, walls, stoves, and picnic tables will be flagged prior to the start of construction. The DPR project archaeologist will consult with the project manager and contractor(s) to develop a site avoidance plan that will avoid impacts to all identified archaeological sites and artifacts within the project's area of potential effect.
- A qualified DPR archaeologist will monitor all ground-disturbing activities within the project area. If potentially significant resources are unearthed, work in the immediate area of the find would be temporarily halted or diverted until identification and proper treatment are determined and implemented. The DPR Service Center or District Cultural Resource Section would be notified a minimum of three weeks prior to the start of ground-disturbing work to schedule monitoring, unless other arrangements are made in advance.
- A report of the findings from the monitoring and any resulting excavations would be completed and copies distributed to the Cultural Resource Division, California State Park Headquarters; the DPR Central Service Center; and San Luis Obispo District Headquarters.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-2

- Prior to the start of construction, a qualified DPR cultural resource specialist (historian and/or archaeologist) will perform extended sub-surface testing and survey at the proposed eastern lift station site. Depending on initial test results, archaeological data recovery excavation would be conducted at the proposed eastern lift station site, prior to the start of construction. Artifacts recovered would be cleaned, sorted, catalogued, and prepared for curation; artifacts would be curated at a DPR facility. Features encountered would be recorded in place or recovered and archived at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist. Where appropriate, specialized studies would be performed, consistent with professional archaeological standards. A report of the findings from the excavations would be completed and copies distributed to Cultural Resource Division, California State Park Headquarters; the DPR Central Service Center; and San Luis Obispo District Headquarters.
- The local Native American tribal representative(s) will be consulted prior to the start of work to determine their level of concern. A Native American monitor will have the option to be present during all ground-disturbing activities, including test excavations, at their discretion.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-3

- In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR State Representative, District or Sector Superintendent, or authorized representative will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.

  If the coroner or tribal representative determines the remains represent Native American internment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC 5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination.
- If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site; the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representative will also occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1 – SEISMIC BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

- The proposed new lift station will conform to earthquake design requirements as described in the 2001 California Building Code.
- New equipment installed within the wastewater lift station will be secured to limit movement during a seismic event.
- State Park staff will inspect and repair the sewage system if necessary as soon as possible after a large earthquake.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-2 – EROSION CONTROL

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used in all areas to control soil and surface water runoff during trenching and grading activities. Grading and excavation activities should not be planned during the rainy season (October 31 to May 1), but if storms are anticipated during construction or if construction must occur during winter months, “winterizing” will occur, including the covering (tarping) of any stockpiled soils and the use of temporary erosion control methods to protect disturbed soil. Temporary erosion control measures (BMPs) must be used during all soil-disturbing activities and until all disturbed soil has been stabilized (recompacted, revegetated, etc.) These BMPs will include, but not be limited to, the use of silt fences, straw bales, or straw or rice coir rolls, to prevent soil loss and siltation into nearby water bodies.
- Permanent BMPs for erosion control will consist of properly compacting disturbed areas and revegetation of appropriate disturbed soil areas with native species using seed collected locally. Final design plans will incorporate BMP measures to be incorporated into the project.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-1

- All equipment will be inspected by the contractor for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.
- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- The directional drilling rig operator is responsible for detecting and controlling drilling fluid seepage. Evidence of drilling fluid seepage includes: visual evidence on the ground surface; loss of circulation (beyond the expected normal amount lost to the formation); and resultant loss of pressure. The drilling contractor shall have sufficient materials on hand to contain any spills. These materials may include straw bales, silt fences, or straw/rice wattles (coir rolls). The drill rig should have a reservoir to contain the bentonite mud.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-2 CONSTRUCTION FIRE MANAGEMENT

- A fire safety plan will be developed by the contractor and approved by DPR prior to the start of construction.
- Spark arrestors or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers will be required for all heavy equipment.
- Construction crews will be required to park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, heavy equipment will be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.
- Park staff will be required to have a State Park radio on site, which allows direct contact to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.
- Fire suppression equipment will also be available and located on park grounds.

MITIGATION MEASURE HYDRO-1 – WATER QUALITY

- Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-2 will provide Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and runoff during the project construction and postconstruction. Groundwater extracted during dewatering of the lift station excavation will be filtered or allowed to settle to remove fines before discharge to the ground surface or nearest storm drain inlet, or water body in compliance with the waste discharge requirements of the CCRWQCB General Permit for Discharges with Low Threat To Water Quality (Order No. 01-119). Alternatively, the extracted groundwater may be directed to the sanitary sewer for disposal at the City of Morro Bay WWTP in compliance with City requirements. The State's contractor will submit to DPR for approval applicable BMP(s) to manage the water. These BMPs may consist of, but not be limited to: desilting basins (permanent or temporary), sediment traps, silt fences, fiber (coir) rolls, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, straw bale barriers, or storm drain inlet protection devices. The proper use and installation of these devices shall follow the Caltrans Stormwater Handbooks (Caltrans, 2003).
- The State's contractor will provide a spill prevention and response plan as part of the construction contract. This plan will discuss the engineering controls to eliminate any sewage releases during the conversion process. The plan will also discuss emergency cleanup procedures in the event that a sewage spill occurs.
- The project would comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and implemented by the State's contractor. Disposition of the groundwater extracted during dewatering of the lift station excavation will be included in the plan.
- Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-1 will mitigate for impacts to water quality from possible pollutants (fuels and other vehicle fluids released from vehicles and heavy equipment during construction and any bentonite drilling fluids released during directional drilling).

MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE-1

- Construction activities would generally be limited to daylight hours, between 7 am and 7 pm. Work on weekends and holidays would not begin prior to 8 am.
- Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site would be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction would utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.
- Stationary noise sources and staging areas would be located as far from sensitive receptors as possible. If they must be located near such receptors, stationary noise sources would be enclosed in temporary sheds or muffled to the extent feasible.

MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE-2

- The use of a sheet pile driver will be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in compliance with the City of Morro Bay noise ordinance.

MITIGATION MEASURE TRANS-1
• DPR or its contractors would provide traffic flaggers as necessary when construction is in progress to ensure public safety and a steady flow of traffic. If lane or road closures are necessary, alternate access will be maintained to and within the park. • Every effort will be made to maintain full access for emergency vehicles and personnel at all times. If unable to maintain a pathway for emergency vehicles due to construction, alternate access will be maintained to and within the park. • Activities resulting in extended traffic delays or encroachment onto public roads would be coordinated in advance with the City of Morro Bay Public Services Department.

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CHAPTER 7
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APPENDIX A
MAPS

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST

APPENDIX C

ACRONYMS